



Annual Town Report

Town of Ipswich
2015

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ROSTER OF TOWN OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEES

REV 2-11-16

Elected

Member

Moderator
(1 year)

Thomas Murphy

Board of Selectmen
(3 years)

Nishan Mootafian, Chair
Judy A. Field, Vice Chair
Charles D. Surpitski
Edward B. Rauscher
William M. Craft

School Committee
(3 years)

Carl Nylen, Chair
Hugh O'Flynn, Vice Chair
Jennifer Bauman
Barry Hopping
Feruza Krason
Sarah Player
Charles Whitten

Constable

Peter J. Dziadose

Appointed

Finance Committee
(3 years)

Michael J. Schaaf
Kevin Murphy
Mitch Feldman (Chair)
Jamie M. Fay
Walter Hartford
Richard F. Howard
Robert A. White
Ingrid Miles
Janice Clements Skelton

Whittier Regional Technical Vocational
High School Representative

Frederick (Russ) Bardsley

Town Officials

Town Manager
Special Assistant & Human Resources Director

Robin Crosbie
Jennifer F. Breaker

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. William I Hart

Director of Finance
Town Accountant
Purchasing Director
MIS Director
Assessor
Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk
Treasurer/Collector
Assistant Treasurer
Deputy Tax Collector

VACANT
Stephanie Frontiera
Frank V. Antonucci
Gregory Parachojuk
Robin Nolan
Pamela Z. Carakatsane
Kathleen A. Marini
Kevin A. Merz
Corinna Warner
Kelly and Ryan Associates Inc.

Building Inspector
Health Agent
Food Inspector
Plumbing & Gas Inspector
Alternate Plumbing & Gas Inspector
Sealer of Weights & Measures
Wiring Inspector
Alternative Wiring Inspector

Anthony Torra
Colleen Fermon
Maureen Lee
Robert Hyde
Kevin Lombard
Dwight Brothers
David Levesque, Sr.
Donald E. Galicki

Director of Plant & Facilities
Assistant to Facilities Director

William A. Hodge
Jane Spellman

Director of Public Works
DPW Operations Manager
Superintendent of Cemetery & Parks

Richard Clarke
Frank J. Ventimiglia
Jeffrey Putur

Fire Chief
Fire Prevention Officer
Police Chief
Police Lieutenant
Harbormaster
Shellfish Constable

Gregory Gannon
Sean Cronin
Paul Nikas
Jon Hubbard
Paul Nikas
Scott LaPreste

Emergency Management Director

Jon Hubbard

Animal Control Officer

Megan Boissoneau

Director of Council on Aging

Sheila Taylor

Town Historian

Gordon Harris

Library Director
Assistant Library Director

Patty DiTullio
Genevieve Picard

Director of Planning
Senior Planner
Affordable Housing Coordinator
Open Space Program Manager
Stewardship Coordinator
Conservation Agent

Glenn C. Gibbs
Ethan Parsons
Terry Anderson
Michelle Vaillancourt
Beth O'Connor
Alicia Geilen

Town Counsel

Attorney George Hall Jr.
Anderson and Krieger

Director of Utilities
Business Manager/Utilities
Electric Operations Manager
Water and Waste Water Manager

VACANT
Karen Repucci
Donald Newell
Victoria Halmen

Veterans Services District

Karen Tyler

Boards and Committees

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board

James Kroesser
James Warner (Chair)
Michael Jones
Ethan Parsons
Nishan D. Mootafian

Agricultural Commission

Royce Knowlton
Cole Desmond
Don Galicki
Jay Stanbury
Cathy Chadwick
Edward White

Alternatives

Christine Sandulli
Kelly Jacklin (Co-Chair)

Athletic Playing Fields Study Committee

Ken Swenson, Chair
Judy Field
John Galanis
John Gillis
Scott Levasseur
Michael Duffield
Kerrie Bates
Jeffrey Putur

Audit Committee

William Craft, Chair
Robert White (Finance Com)
Carl Nylén
Larry Pszenney
William Callahan

Board of Assessors

Robin Nolan
John Moberger
Karen L. Rassias

Bay Circuit Trail Committee

Lawrence G. Eliot, Chair
Barbara Ostberg
Ed Murphy
Ralph Williams
Norman Marsh
Martha Mauser

Ipswich Community Access Media (ICAM)

Robert Ryan, Chair
Gregory Parachojuk
Ann Savage
James Maloney
Scott Ames
Dan Clasby
Cushing Titcomb

Cemetery & Parks Commission

James Graffum
Harry Argeropoulos
Theodore Lemieux

Public Safety Committee

Edward D. Dick
William Thoen
Paul McGinley

	Roland Gallant John Morris Jamie Fay Jean Emerson James Graffum Peter Foote
Public Arts Committee	Kristina Brendal Paula Jones John Fiske Katie McElwain Barbara Monahan
Commuter Rail Committee	Dorcas Rice, Chair Robert Waldner Joseph Carlin Chris Curry Paul Sanborn
Conservation Commission	Jennifer Hughes, Chair David Standley, Vice Chair William McDavitt Sissy Ffolliott Brian F. O'Neill Catherine Carney Feldman Michele A. Hunton
Conservation Agent	Alicia Geilen
Council On Aging	Diane Mitchell Lilian Riley Tone Kenney Nancy Scanzani Penny Foss Keith Carlson Lorraine Laddin
Cultural Council (3 years)	Barta Hathaway, Chair Michele McGrath Ann Fitzgerald Jane Ward Gail Doktor Kathleen Bonnar

	Marie Mancinelli Gina Looby Kristina Brendel
Design Review Board	Rue Sherwood Laura Gresh Ken Savoie Mitchell Lowe Robert L Weatherall
Alternate Members	Linda Riley Jeff Anderson
Eight Towns & the Bay Committee	VACANCY (2)
Electric Light Sub-Committee	Charles D. Surpitski, Chair Edward B. Rauscher Michael Schaaf James Engel Whitney Hatch
Fair Housing	Tone Kenney
Government Study Committee	David Standley Richard Nylen Craig Saline KellyJane Kloub
Hall-Haskell Committee	Theresa Stephens, Chair William Nelson William Thoen Stephanie Gaskins James C. Lahar Margaret Broeker Ed Sukach
Board of Health	Susan C. Hubbard, Chair Spencer R. Amesbury, MD Margaret McDermott
Historical Commission	Stephen Miles Gordon Harris Brian Townsend

Alternative Members	Casey Wright (Vice Chair) John Fiske Laura Gresh Christopher Morse Ruth Strachan Jeff Anderson Anne Page
Affordable Housing Partnership	Michael Schaaf, Chair James Warner Michael Jones Edward D. Dick Jim Kroesser Skip Pimentel Ingrid Miles Charles Allen Donald Greenough
Ipswich River Watershed District Advisory Board	VACANT
Library Trustees	George R. Gray, Chair Lawrence J. Pszenny Marie Louise Scudder Hugh McCall Sherry Hurley Judith L. Rusin Helen Danforth Dorothy Johnson Marion Frost
Mosquito Control Advisory Board	Robert A. Gambale, Chair Lisa Galanis Ed Ruta Ernest Brockelbank. Anne Wallace
Open Space Committee	Wayne Castonguay, Co-Chair Casey Wright Bill Holton Ralph Williams Andy Brengle

	David Feldman Katie Hone
Planning Board (5 years)	John Stanbury Heidi Paek Cathryn Cadwick Kathleen Milano Keith Anderson Carolyn Britt
Associate Member (2 years)	
Recreation & Culture Committee	Paul Sacksman Susan DeMarle David Wallace Kerrie Bates
Recycling Committee	David Benedix Penny Devoe Rick Clarke Judy Sedgewick Mike Judy Paula Jones Meredith McMorrow Nicole Whitten Heather Pillis Andrea Lacroix Marlene Faria Connelly Debra Ramos
Registrar of Voters	Pamela Z. Carakatsane Rob Stone Katherine Eliopoulos Peter Ross
Sandy Point Advisory Committee	Joseph W. Parks Stanley W. Wood
Shellfish Sub-Committee	Michael Lambros William M. Craft Charles D. Surpitski, (Co-chair) Scott LaPreste Wayne Castonguay Constable LaPreste Linda Alexson

	Harbor Master Nikas David Swicker Brenda Turner
Shade Tree & Beautification Committee	Janet Craft, Chair Ann Wright Pat Flannigan Rick Clarke Rick Clarke Pat Beirne Paula Jones Charles D. Surpitski Christopher Wood Barbara Monahan
Trust Fund Commission	Richard Fates Jean Emerson
Water Sub Committee	William M Craft Ingrid Miles Edward B. Rauscher James Engel David Stanley Timothy Corrigan
Wastewater Sub Committee	Judy A. Field William M. Craft, Marion Swan James Engel Brian Kubaska
Zoning Board of Appeals	Robert A. Gambale, Chair. Benjamin Fierro Lewis Vlahos Roger LeBlanc William A. Page
Alternative Members	Robert Tragert Rebecca Gayton

**RECORD OF ACTION
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 12, 2015**

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Ipswich met in the Ipswich High School/Middle School Performing Arts Center in said Town of Ipswich on, Tuesday, May 12, 2015. A quorum being present (685 -200 required), was called to order by the Moderator, Mr. Thomas R. Murphy, at 7:10 P.M.

A jazz combo played prior to the start of the meeting. Students playing were Seth Persson, Chris Grady, Erich Duback, Matt Naeger, Henry Gorrell and Julia Sabbagh.

The counters for the evening, in the auditorium, were Diane Young, Edward B. Rauscher, Michael Johnson, Nathaniel Pulsifer, Mark Avenmarg and William Nelson. The Moderator in the cafeteria was Craig Saline. Kay Evans and Mark Allman were counters in the cafeteria. Non registered persons were given permission to attend the meeting as spectators and were seated at the back left facing the stage. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Moderator.

State Representative Bradford Hill spoke on infrastructure money, gave a local aid update, and an update on Home Rule Petitions which were passed by previous Town Meetings.

ARTICLE 1

Consent Calendar

A MOTION was made by William Craft, and duly seconded, to

- (1) To fix the annual salary and compensation of all elected Town Officers as follows: Town Moderator: \$250.00; Board of Selectmen: member \$750.00; Chairperson \$1,000.00; School Committee: member \$200.00;
- (2) To transfer the sum of \$325,000 as a payment-in-lieu of taxes from the Electric Light Department;
- (3) To hear reports from the Commuter Rail Committee, the Hall-Haskell Committee, and the Open Space & Recreation Committee, and to continue these as standing committees of Town Meeting;
- (4) To authorize the Board of Selectmen to temporarily appoint a member of said Board as Acting Town Manager for a limited period of time not to exceed the date of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting for purposes of vacation, leave, or absence in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 268A, Sections 20 and 21A;
- (5) To authorize and/or re-authorize for FY'2016 the following revolving funds established under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E½:
 - a. a Department of Public Safety revolving fund, the use of said fund to pay for the operation and maintenance of the Town Wharf, and to determine that no more than \$10,000 may be expended by the Department of Public Safety in FY 2014

from such funds transferred into said fund during FY'2016. (Source of funds: Launching Fees);

- b. a Department of Public Works revolving fund, the use of said fund to finance approved beautification projects and related expenses, and to determine that no more than \$5,000 may be expended by the Department of Public Works in FY 2016 from such funds transferred into said fund during FY'2016. (Source of funds: Sale of wood from the grand elm tree);
- c. a Health Department Public Health revolving fund, to be funded through reimbursements from Medicare Part B, Medicare Senior Advantage Plans and other insurance plans for the administration of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines to be used to finance part-time wages and pay related expenditures such as the cost of vaccine, medical supplies, and other administrative costs, and to determine that no more than \$5,000 may be expended by the Public Health Department from monies transferred into said fund during FY'2016. (Source of funds: Medicare Part B, Medicare Senior Advantage Plans and other insurance plans);
- d. a Council on Aging revolving fund, the use of said fund to pay for special activities, expendable supplies and/or part-time wages, and to determine that no more than \$100,000 may be expended by the Council on Aging from monies transferred into said fund during FY'2016 (Source of funds: fees contributed by seniors participating in special activities);
- e. a Historical Commission revolving fund, the use of said fund to pay for preservation of Town records and to purchase expendable supplies, and to determine that no more than \$5,000 may be expended by the Historical Commission from monies transferred into said fund during FY 2016 (Source of funds: sale of publications);
- f. a Health Department revolving fund, the use of said fund to finance additional part-time help in the Health Department and to pay related expenses, and to determine that no more than \$7,000 may be expended by the Health Department in FY'2016 from such funds transferred into said fund during FY 2016 (Source of funds: Housing Code inspection fees);
- g. a Facilities Department revolving fund to pay for custodial services and other expenses associated with the use of the gymnasium and other Town Hall facilities by outside organizations or for special events sponsored by municipal departments; and to determine that no more than \$20,000 may be expended from the Facilities Department revolving fund from monies transferred into said fund during FY'2016 (Source of funds: user fees); and
- h. a Shellfish Department revolving fund, said funds to be used for enhancements to the shellfish resources of the Town, and to determine that no more than \$15,000 may be expended by the Shellfish Commissioners from monies transferred into said fund during any given fiscal year (Source of funds: surcharge on commercial shellfish licenses).

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 2**Finance Committee Election**

A MOTION was made by Janice Clements-Skelton, and duly seconded, to Appoint Robert White to the Ipswich Finance Committee for a period of three years.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 3**FY'2015 School Budget Amendments**

A MOTION was made by Barry Hopping, and duly seconded, to Appropriate to the FY '15 school budget \$41,188.83 from insurance claim reimbursements.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 4**FY'2015 Municipal Budget Amendments**

A MOTION was made by Charles Surpitski, and duly seconded, to **Indefinitely postpone** this article

(To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's action taken under Article 8 of the May 13, 2014 Annual Town Meeting (FY'2015 Municipal Operating Budget) by transferring sums between departments or from available funds; or to take any other action relative thereto.)

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 5**Prior Year Unpaid Bills**

A MOTION was made by Nishan Mootafian, and duly seconded, to **Indefinitely postpone** this article

(To see if the Town will vote to pay, or transfer a sum of money from available funds, to pay unpaid bills incurred in prior years and remaining unpaid; or to take any other action relative thereto.)

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 6**FY'2015 Chapter 90 Amendments**

A MOTION was made by Judy Field, and duly seconded, to

Amend action taken under Article 7 of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting (Chapter 90) by increasing the amount from \$444,004 to \$666,006, which is the sum actually released to the Town under the authority of M.G.L. Chapter 90.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 7**Chapter 90**

A MOTION was made by Judy Field, and duly seconded, to

Appropriate the sum of \$444,066 from the state for highway improvements under the authority M.G.L. Chapter 90, or any such applicable laws, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen, if necessary, to apply for, accept and borrow in anticipation of state aid for such projects.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 8**FY 2016 Municipal Budget**

A MOTION was made by William Craft, and duly seconded, to

Appropriate the sum of \$21,793,598 for the FY '16 municipal budget to be expended as follows:

General Government	\$ 1,513,086
Planning & Community Development	\$ 539,407
Public Safety	\$ 4,786,322
Public Works	\$ 3,830,577
Community & Cultural Services	\$ 1,335,409
Benefits & Other	\$ 4,491,416
For a General Fund Total of \$16,496,217: and	
Water Department	\$ 3,196,274
Wastewater Department	\$ 2,101,107

And that the following sums be raised and appropriated or transferred to fund the FY'2016 budget:

Septic Loan Program	\$ 17,865
Tourism Account	\$ 2,000
Debt Premium	\$ 3,259
Overlay Surplus	\$ 75,000
Waterway Improvements Fund	\$ 79,354
Raise & Appropriate	\$ 16,318,739
Water Receipts	\$ 3,092,348
Water Reserves	\$ 103,926
Wastewater Receipts	\$ 1,875,259
Wastewater Reserves	\$ 225,848

and to authorize the town to enter into lease-purchase contracts for equipment having a term of five years or less.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 9**FY'2016 School Budget**

A MOTION was made by Hugh O'Flynn, and duly seconded, to

Transfer the sum of \$75,000 from the Overlay Surplus account and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,545,582 for a total of \$26,620,582 to fund the FY '16 School Budget as set forth in Article 9 of the Warrant as follows: to hear and act upon the reports of the School Committee

and Finance Committee relative to the Fiscal Year 2016 School Department budget and to raise, appropriate, transfer money from available funds, and change the purpose of the unexpended balances of prior appropriations all to be used for the ensuing year's operations and debt service, including entering into lease-purchase agreements having a term of five years or less for a school bus and/or for other purposes; and to act upon a request to reauthorize existing revolving funds pursuant to State law.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 10 **School Override**

A MOTION was made by Carl Nylen, and duly seconded, to
Raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,900,000 for the FY '16 School Budget, provided that this appropriation shall be contingent upon passage of a proposition 2 ½ referendum question pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 59, § 21C.

A MOTION was made by Ralph Williams to:
Move the question.

**MODERATOR'S DECLARATION REGARDING THE MOTION TO MOVE THE
QUESTION: CARRIED BY A DECLARED 2/3 VOTE**

**MODERATOR'S DECLARATION REGARDING THE MAIN MOTION: DECLARED
CARRIED**

ARTICLE 11 **FY 2016 Whittier Regional High School Budget**

A MOTION was made by Sean Gresh, and duly seconded, to

Raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$556,348, to cover the Town's share of the ensuing year's annual operating and debt service expenses of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 12 **FY 2016 Essex County Technical Institute Budget**

A MOTION was made by Charles Surpitski, and duly seconded, to

Raise and appropriate form available funds the sum of \$325,000, to cover the Town's share of the ensuing year's annual operating and debt service expenses of the Essex County Technical Institute.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 13**Annual Capital Plan**

A MOTION was made by Nishan Mootafian, and duly seconded, to

Transfer, to fund the capital budget, from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$673,748, and, from free cash the sum of \$49,000, for the following purposes, and that any remaining funds be returned to the Capital Stabilization Fund:

Facilities:

Computer Equipment	\$20,800
Network Equipment	\$43,000
Project Reserve	\$ 2,000
Payne – Air Conditioning	\$15,000
Doyon – Replace Boiler 1 of 2	\$37,500
Winthrop – Split A/C	\$16,000
Middle/High Schools –	
Repair/Replace Indoor Track,	
Gym, Cafeteria Floors	\$90,000
HVAC System	\$65,000
PAC Carpet and Floors	\$35,000
Town Hall –	
Carpet Replacement Program	\$15,500
Replace large HVAC Units	\$80,000
Library – Replace Carpet Year 3 of 3	\$20,000

Equipment:

DPW- Loader Year 2 of 5	\$34,605
DPW – Dump Truck with Plow Year 2 of 5	\$35,843
DPW – Dump Truck Year 1 of 5	\$28,000
Fire – Replace Hurst “Jaws of Life”	\$35,000
Fire – Set aside for pumper replacement	\$40,000
Fire – Set aside for SCBA replacement	\$25,000
Shellfish Truck	\$27,000
Emergency Management- Message Board	\$17,000

Economic Development:

Wayfinding Signs Year 1 of 3	\$40,500
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MODERATOR’S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSES BY 2/3 VOTE

ARTICLE 14

Town Hall Exterior Painting

A MOTION was made by Charles Surpitski, and duly seconded, to

Transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$47,000 for exterior painting and related repairs to the Town Hall.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 15

OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits)

A MOTION was made by Nishan Mootafian, and duly seconded, to

Transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000, to the special Other Post-Employment Benefits account (OPEB) as established under M.G.L., Chapter 32B, §20.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 16

APD Bylaw Enforcement Provision

A MOTION was made by William Craft, and duly seconded, to

Amend “Chapter XXII. ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT” of the General Bylaws of the Town of Ipswich as follows:

(bold italics = proposed new language; strikethrough = language to be deleted)

Amend Section 2: Definitions by amending the definitions of “ADDITION, SUBSTANTIAL” AND “SUBSTITUTE SIDING” as follows:

“ADDITION, SUBSTANTIAL: Any addition to a principal or accessory contributing building that *is enclosed by walls and a roof and which* increases the existing gross floor area by 1,000 square feet or by thirty percent (30%) or more, whichever is less...”

“SUBSTITUTE SIDING: A siding material that has been placed over or has replaced the ~~original~~ wood siding of a building...”

(1) Amend Section 8: Alterations Which Require APDC Review, paragraph (c) as follows:

(c) New construction of buildings on properties within the APD, including substantial additions ~~fully enclosed by walls and a roof~~, but not including *the construction of* accessory buildings that are less than 250 square feet in area.;

(2) Add the following language to “Section 11: Enforcement”:

“In addition to the duties previously set forth in this Bylaw, the APDC or the Building Inspector may issue enforcement orders directing compliance with this Bylaw and may undertake any other administrative enforcement action authorized by law. Upon request of the APDC, and with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Counsel may take legal

action on behalf of the Town for enforcement of this Bylaw, or any order issued hereunder, in any court of competent jurisdiction.”; and

(3) Amend Section 13: Appeal Procedure as follows:

~~Any Person Aggrieved by a determination of the APDC may appeal to the Superior Court within twenty (20) days of the filing of the disapproval with the Town Clerk~~ *Any aggrieved party may appeal the action of the APDC. Appeals may be taken as provided by MGL Chapter 249, Section 4 as may be amended.*

MODERATOR’S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 17 and ARTICLE 18 Chapter XIV: Occupational Licenses – Section 4. Fortunetelling for Money and; Chapter XV: Miscellaneous Provisions for Public Order and Safety-Section 18: Fingerprint-Based Criminal Record Background Checks

A MOTION was made by Judy Field, for both ARTICLE 17 and ARTICLE 18, and duly seconded, to

Amend the general bylaws as follows:

Chapter XIV: Occupational Licenses - Section 4. Fortunetelling for Money (Article 17)

By add the following Section to Chapter XIV: Occupational Licenses:

Section 4: Fortunetelling for Money

- a. The purpose of this By-law is to regulate fortunetelling and similar business so that the Town can efficiently and thoroughly investigate fraud and deception, and protect the public by preventing people who have been charged with deceptive practices from having easy access to persons who may be vulnerable to fraud or confidence games.
- b. Fortunetelling shall mean the telling of fortunes, forecasting of futures, or reading the past, by means of any occult, psychic power, faculty, force, clairvoyance, cartomancy, psychometry, phrenology, spirits, tea leaves, tarot cards, scrying, coins, sticks, dice, sand, coffee grounds, crystal gazing or other such reading, or through mediumship, seership, prophecy, augury, astrology, palmistry, necromancy, mindreading, telepathy, or other craft, art, science, talisman, charm, potion, magnetism, magnetized article or substance, or by any such similar thing or act.
- c. The Board of Selectmen may issue a license to a person to tell fortunes for money under the provisions of Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 140, section 185I. Any person applying to tell fortunes for money shall file a written application for a Fortune Teller license with the Town Clerk, on a form issued by the Police Department, signed under the penalties of perjury, containing the following information:
 - i. The name of the applicant.
 - ii. Physical address of the applicant (PO Box shall not be acceptable)..

- iii. The applicant's height, weight, eye & hair color.
- iv. The applicant's Social Security number or Federal Identification number.
- v. The full name under which the business will be conducted.
- vi. The present or proposed address where the business will be conducted.
- vii. The length of time for which the right to do business is desired (business hours).
- viii. A brief description of the nature of the business and the services to be provided.
- ix. The applicant shall be photographed and fingerprinted by the Police Department for the purpose of completing a criminal background check and producing photo identification. The fingerprinting shall be in compliance of Chapter XV, Section 18 of these of the General By-laws.
- d. Fees for the issuance of such license shall be in accordance with a scheduled fee, to be established from time to time by order of the Board of Selectmen.

Amend Chapter XV: Miscellaneous Provisions for Public Order and Safety – Section 18: Fingerprint-Based Criminal Record Background Checks by adding the following occupational license:

- Fortune Teller

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSES BY A MAJORITY

ARTICLE 19 Chapter XV: Miscellaneous Provisions for Public Order and Safety Section 19: Carrying certain weapons or weapon-like objects.

A MOTION was made by Charles Surpitski, and duly seconded, to

Add the following Section to Chapter XV: Miscellaneous Provisions for Public Order and Safety – Section 19: Carrying certain weapons or weapon-like objects.

- a) No person, except as provided by law, shall carry on his/her person or carry on his/her person or under his/her control while in a vehicle, including those weapons and instruments mentioned in Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 269, section 10 (b) and section 12, any sabre, sword, or weapon of like or similar nature; any knife having any type of blade in excess of 3 inches, except when actually engaged in hunting, fishing, shell fishing or other sporting activity or going to and/or returning from such activities or in any employment which activity requires the use of any type of knife; or other object or tool so redesigned, fashioned, prepared or treated that such may be used to inflict bodily harm or injury to another.
- b) Any person who violates this section shall be subject to arrest and a fine of not more than fifty (\$50.00) dollars for each offense.

A MOTION TO AMEND was made by Ralph Williams, and duly seconded, to Strike the work "carry" and replace it with "brandish".

A MOTION was made by Charles Surpitski, and duly seconded, to

Refer this article to a committee to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen and to refer it to a future meeting.

The Moderator declared that a referral to a committee “trumps” an amendment, therefore, no vote was taken on Mr. Williams’ motion to amend.

MODERATOR’S DECLARATION ON MR. SURPITSKI’S MOTION: DECLARED PASSES BY A MAJORITY

ARTICLE 20 Chapter XIV: Occupational Licenses – Section 3 Solicitors & Canvassers

A MOTION was made by Nishan Mootafian, and duly seconded, to Amend Chapter XIV: Occupational Licenses – Section 3 Solicitors & Canvassers by deleting sub-section (C) (h) and inserting the following new subsection (C) (h):

(h) The applicant shall be photographed and fingerprinted by the Police Department for the purpose of completing a criminal background check and producing photo identification. The fingerprinting shall be in compliance of Chapter XV, Section 18 of these of the General By-laws.

MODERATOR’S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 21 Chapter XII – Section 12 Removal of Snow & Ice on Sidewalks

A MOTION was made by Judy Field, and duly seconded, to Amend Chapter XII: Use of Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Places, by adding a new Section 12. “Removal of Snow and Ice on Sidewalks”, as follows:

- (a) Obligation: The owner, occupant, tenant or agent in charge of any land or building abutting a paved (whether with brick, stone, cement, asphalt or other impervious material) sidewalk within the right-of-way of a street in the Town of Ipswich shall be responsible for the removal of snow, slush and ice from abutting sidewalks and access points to sidewalks no later than 8:00 p.m. on the day following the cessation of the weather event. Sidewalks and access points shall be cleared to a width of at least forty-two (42) inches or, if the sidewalk or access point is narrower, the width of the sidewalk or access point.

The obligation set forth in this Section shall be extended for those who are temporarily absent for vacations, holidays, hospitalization and other unexpected absences; provided, however, that they shall be required to satisfy their obligation no later than 8:00 p.m. on the day following the end of their temporary absence. Temporary absences shall be limited to no more than five (5) calendar days.

- (b) Enforcement: The Chief of Police or Department of Public Works Director, or their designee(s), shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this Section,

pursuant to Section XVII. Noncriminal Disposition of Certain Violations, Section 4, Subsection C of the General Bylaws.

- (c) Exemptions: Homeowners who have an approved Clause C1 37A (Blind), C1 41A, C1 41D, C1 17E (Elderly), or C1 22 (Veteran Disability Exemption) from the Ipswich Board of Assessors as of October 1 each year shall be exempted from the requirements of this bylaw.
- (d) Rules and Regulations: The Board of Selectmen may promulgate or amend Rules and Regulations which pertain to the administration of this Section. The adoption or amendment of Rules and Regulations shall be after a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed or amended Rules and Regulations. The public hearing shall be advertised once in a newspaper of general local circulation, at least 14 days prior to the date of the public hearing.

And further to amend Chapter XVII, Section 4, Subsection C by adding: Removal of Snow and Ice on Sidewalks (Police Department): \$50.

MODERATOR'S DECLARATION: DECLARED FAILED BY A MAJORITY

ARTICLE 22

Additional Liquor License

A MOTION was made by William Craft, and duly seconded, to

Authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation in the form set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make only clerical or editorial changes to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve amendments that shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition:

An act authorizing the Town of Ipswich to issue an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises and an additional license for the sale of wines and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises.

Section 1. Notwithstanding section 17 of chapter 138 of the General Laws, the licensing authority of the town of Ipswich may issue 1 additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises pursuant to section 12 of said chapter 138 to the establishment known as Mamma Luisa Cucina and Bar, located at 14 Central street, in the town of Ipswich, and 1 additional license for the sale of wines and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises pursuant to section 15 of said chapter 138 to the establishment known as Cellar Door Ipswich, located at 2 South Main street, in the town of Ipswich. These licenses shall be subject to all of said chapter 138 except said section 17.

The licensing authority shall not approve the transfer of a license granted pursuant to this act to any other location, but it may grant such license to a new applicant at the same location if the applicant files with the licensing authority a letter from the department of revenue and a letter from the department of unemployment assistance indicating that the license is in good standing with those departments and that all applicable taxes, fees and contributions have been paid. If a license granted pursuant to this act is cancelled, revoked or no longer in use, it shall be returned physically, with all of the legal rights, privileges and restrictions pertaining thereto, to

the licensing authority, which may then grant the license to a new applicant at the same location and under the same conditions as specified in this act.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

MODERATOR’S DECLARATION: DECLARED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 23 **Green Crab Eradication**

A MOTION was made by Charles D. Surpitski, and duly seconded, to Transfer from available funds the sum of \$10,000 for green crab control efforts.

Moderator’s Declaration: Declared Passes Unanimously

ARTICLE 2 **Repairs to School Dept. Administrative Office Building (Payne School)**

A MOTION was made by Ferusa Krason, and duly seconded, to Transfer from free cash the sum of \$35,000 for exterior roof and siding repairs, window replacement and upgrade of electrical service at the School Department Administration Office Building.

Moderator’s Declaration: Declared Passes Unanimously

ARTICLE 25 **Replacement of Shades and Blinds at Doyon School**

A MOTION was made by Sarah Player, and duly seconded, to Transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000 to replace window shades and blinds at the Doyon School or take any action relative thereto.

Moderator’s Declaration: Declared Passes Unanimously

A MOTION was made at 10:58 PM by William Craft, and duly seconded, to continue the meeting until all the Articles are voted upon.

Moderator’s Declaration: Declared Passes

ARTICLE 26 **Prevent Solar Glare from Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Installations**

A MOTION was made by Phillip N. Goss, for both ARTICLE 26 AND ARTICLE 27, and duly seconded, to

Amend the Ipswich Protective Zoning Bylaw, Use Regulations Section V. D. Footnotes to Use Regulations, Footnote 36 by striking “rated over 10 kilowatts (kw)” to read: “Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations (GSI) are subject to the regulations in Section IX. Q. of this bylaw,” and to amend Section IX. Special Regulations. Q. Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations (GSI) as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to: Amend the Protective Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Ipswich by Amending “III DEFINITIONS” as follows:

Modify definition of “INN” by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting in lieu thereof the following: “A building or group of buildings containing no more than 15 guest rooms without individual cooking facilities for transient occupancy and let for compensation. A common dining facility where meals are served to overnight guests and others, and/or related retail and consumer services intended for serving the needs of guest room occupants and the public, including functions and meetings, may be provided for the common good.

NO ACTION was taken on the following:

Election of Officers & School Override

And you are also directed to notify said inhabitants, qualified to vote in the election of Town Officers, to meet at the YMCA Hall, County Road, on Tuesday, May 19, 2015; when the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to vote on one ballot for the following offices and questions:

- (1) To choose the following officers, viz: a Moderator for one [1] year; one [1] member of the Board of Selectmen for three [3] years; one [1] member of the Board of Selectmen for one [1] year; two [2] members of the School Committee for three [3] years; one [1] member of the Housing Authority for one [1] year; one [1] member of the Housing Authority for five [5] years.
- (2) BALLOT QUESTION: Shall the Town of Ipswich be allowed to assess an additional \$2,900,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the School Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015?

A MOTION to adjourn at 11:05 PM was duly seconded.

Respectfully submitted, Pamela Z. Carakatsane, CMMC/CMC Town Clerk

**RECORD OF ACTION
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
October 27, 2015**

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Ipswich met in the Ipswich High School/Middle School Performing Arts Center in said Town of Ipswich on, Tuesday, October 27, 2015. A quorum being present (221 -200 required), was called to order by the Moderator, Mr. Thomas R. Murphy, at 7:20 P.M. Total number of attendees was 438 registered voters.

The High School Chamber Orchestra played prior to the start of the meeting. Students playing were Izabella Lidrbauch, Leah Harmon, Zoe Doran, Zoe Duffield, Ellis Roesler, Joshua Dumont, Johanna Johnson, Samuel Duffield, Claire Werner, Emma Parakis, Ariel Kenny, Katie Lynch, Alina Kenny, Meaghan Cullen, Lorna Burdik, Taeko Abuza, Sydney Dumont, Malak Rayes, Claire McElwain, Olivia Kabaska, Tessa Devoe, Michael Naeger, Rebecca Putnam, Taylor Welch, and Charles Abuza.

The counters for the evening were, Section 1. Diane Young and Kay Evans; Section 2. Nathaniel Brown and Brad Clark; and Section 3. Mark Allman (Head Teller) and Robert Donahue. Non registered persons were given permission to attend the meeting as spectators and were seated at the back left facing the stage. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alexa Eliopoulos, Jaclyn Dziadose, Gabby Ramasci, Millie Cormier and Aubrey O'Flynn members of Girl Scout Troop 61214. The Troop Leader is Allison Hubbard. The Moderator recognized Town employees who passed away during the year for their service to the Town.

Article One **FY 2016 Budget Amendment - Town**

A **MOTION** was made by Nishan Mootafian, and duly seconded, to

Amend the Town's action taken under Article 8 of the May 12, 2015, Annual Town Meeting (FY 2016 Municipal Operating Budget) by appropriating \$59,865 to the Miscellaneous Expense budget (Management Transfer Account) by transferring \$59,455 from additional State Cherry Sheet Funds and \$410 from the Fund Balance for Debt Premium account.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Declared Carried Unanimously

Article Two **FY 2016 Budget Amendment - School**

A **MOTION** was made by Carl Nylen, and duly seconded, to

Amend the Town's action taken under Article 9 of the May 12, 2015, Annual Town Meeting (FY 2016 School Operating Budget) by appropriating \$133,564 from additional Local Aid from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the School Department Budget.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Carried Unanimously

Article Three- Amend Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District Funding

A **MOTION** was made by Sarah Player, and duly seconded, to

Amend Article 12 of the May 12, 2015, Annual Town Meeting to raise and appropriate an additional \$36,008 from available funds to cover the Town's share of the 2016 annual operating and debt service expenses of the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Carried Unanimously

Article Four **Educational Stabilization Fund**

A **MOTION** was made by Carl Nysten, and duly seconded, to

Establish a School Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding the operation and capital expenses of the Ipswich School Department, and to transfer to said School Stabilization Fund \$707, 774 from the sum appropriated to the FY 2016 School Operating Budget under Article 10 of the 2015 Annual Town Meeting.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Declared Passes Unanimously

Article Five **Statutory Exemptions**

A **MOTION** was made by Charles Surpitski, and duly seconded, to

Reduce the age of eligibility to age 65 (from 70) for the property tax exemption for senior citizens under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2016; and

to adjust the exemption amount from \$750 to \$1,000 for the property tax exemption for senior citizens under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2016; and

to adjust the gross receipts limit for any exemption granted to senior citizens under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, by increasing the allowable income for applicants from \$18,727 to \$20,000 if single and from \$23,175 to \$30,000 if married, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2016; and

to adjust the asset limit for any exemption granted to senior citizens under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, by increasing the allowable assets for applicants from \$30,593 to \$40,000 if single and from \$32,778 to \$55,000 if married, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2016; and

to rescind the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41D, which authorizes an annual increase in the income and asset limit for any exemption granted to

senior citizens under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, by the amount of the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for the previous year, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2016.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Declared Passes Unanimously

Article Six

Purchase of Mini Excavator

A **MOTION** was made by Charles Surpitski, and duly seconded, to

Appropriate the amount of Sixty-Five Thousand (\$65,000) from the Cemetery Sale of Lots Fund for the purchase of a mini excavator.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Motion Carries by Majority Vote

Article Seven

Solar Energy Collection Apparatus Regulation Amendment

A **MOTION** was made by Heidi Paek, and duly seconded, to

Amend the Ipswich Protective Zoning Bylaw as follows:

(~~Strikethrough~~=language to be deleted; ***bold italics***= language to be added)

1) Amend Special Regulations in Section IX.Q. as shown below:

~~“Q. Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations (GSI)~~ ***Solar Energy Collection Apparatus***

1. Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw is to provide standards for ~~Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations (GSI)~~ ***Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses*** with respect to the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification, and removal of such installations...

2. Applicability

This ~~bylaw section~~ applies to all new ~~GSI rated over ten (10) kilowatts (kw)~~ ***Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses, except single panel systems less than six (6) square feet in area such as those that electrify fences or illuminate signs.*** Physical modifications to ~~GSI rated over ten (10) kw~~ that materially alter the type, configuration, or size of ***new or existing Solar Collection Apparatuses also apply.***

3. General Requirements for ~~GSI rated over ten (10) kw~~ ***Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses***

Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses proposed as accessory uses are allowed by right as provided in the Table of Uses in Section V of this bylaw. The following requirements

apply to all ~~GSI rated over ten (10) kw~~ and **Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses** permitted by the Table of Uses in Section V of this zoning bylaw, unless otherwise noted:

- a. Compliance with Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations: The construction and operation of ~~GSI Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses~~ shall be in compliance... All buildings and fixtures forming part of a **GSI Solar Energy Collection Apparatus** shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code.
- b. Building Permit, Building Inspection, and Fees: No **GSI Solar Energy Collection Apparatus** shall be constructed, installed, or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a building permit. The application for such a building permit shall be accompanied by the fee required pursuant to Section XI.D of this bylaw.

~~c. Required Documents: Proponents of all GSI rated over ten (10) kw shall provide the following documents:~~

~~i. A site plan showing:~~

- ~~a) Blueprints or drawings of the GSI signed by a licensed professional engineer showing the proposed layout of the system and any potential shading by nearby structures;~~
- ~~b) A one or three line electrical diagram detailing the solar photovoltaic installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;~~
- ~~c) Documentation of the major system components to be used in the installation, including the PV panels, mounting system, and inverter;~~
- ~~d) The name, address, and phone number for the proposed system installer;~~
- ~~e) The name, address, phone number, and signature of the project proponent, as well as all co-proponents or property owners, if any;~~
- ~~f) The name, address, phone number, and signature of any agents representing the project proponent; and~~

~~ii. Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site;~~

~~iii. Zoning district designation for the parcel(s) of land comprising the project site (submission of a copy of a zoning map with the parcel(s) identified is suitable for this purpose);~~

~~iv. Proof of liability insurance acceptable to the Town;~~

~~v. Documentation that the Ipswich Electric Light Commissioners has been informed of the owner or operator's intent to install an interconnected generator, an interconnection agreement (if available at the time of permitting), and a power purchase agreement (if available at time of permitting) signed by the utility. Off grid systems shall be exempt from this requirement. If an interconnection agreement and a power purchase agreement are not available at the time of application, a conditional~~

~~approval can be issued subject to filing of an acceptable interconnection agreement and power purchase agreement within thirty (30) days of execution of such documents.~~

d. *c.* Maintenance Requirements: The installation owners shall maintain the ~~facility~~ **apparatus** in good condition, including but not limited to painting, structural repairs, and the integrity of security and safety measures. The owner or operator shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the **GSI Solar Energy Collection Apparatus** and *in the case of commercial Ground Mounted Solar Installations*, any access road(s), unless accepted as a public way.

~~e. Dimensional and Density Requirements~~

~~i. Setback and Yard Requirements:~~

~~a) GSI shall comply with the Dimensional and Density Regulations provided in Section VI of this bylaw.~~

~~b) GSI shall be no more than twelve (12) feet in height. The Planning Board, by special permit, may increase the allowable height provided that it deems the installation adequately shielded from view by vegetation, fencing, or physical topography.~~

f. *d.* Design Standards

i. Lighting: Lighting shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall be shielded from abutting properties. Lighting of the **GSI Solar Energy Collection Apparatus** shall be directed downward and shall incorporate full cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution.

ii. Signage: *When required, a sign shall be placed on a solar energy collection apparatus to identify the owner and provide a 24-hour emergency contact phone number.* Signs on or appurtenant to a **GSI Solar Energy Collection Apparatus** shall comply with Section VIII of this bylaw. **GSI Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses** shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the installation.

iii. Utility Connections: Reasonable efforts shall be made to place cabling and utility connections from the **GSI Solar Energy Collection Apparatus** underground, depending on the appropriate soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site, as well as any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the provider.

iv. *Glare: The permittee shall prevent reflected solar radiation or glare from becoming a nuisance or hazard to adjacent buildings, roadways, or properties by employing reasonable efforts, such as proper placement and arrangement of the Solar Energy Collection Apparatus, anti-*

reflective materials, solar glare modeling, roof mounts, vegetative screening, fences and other industry best practices. Reasonable efforts shall be demonstrated at the time of building permit application.

~~g. Safety and Environmental Requirements:~~

- ~~i. Emergency Services: The GSI owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the Ipswich Fire Chief. Upon request, the owner or operator shall cooperate with Ipswich emergency services in developing a response plan. All means of shutting down the installation shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.~~

e. Interconnection Agreement: Except for off-grid systems, all Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses are subject to an interconnection agreement between the owner and/or operator and the Ipswich Municipal Light Department prior to their use in the Town of Ipswich.

f. Submittal Requirements:

- i. Blueprints or drawings of the Solar Energy Collection Apparatus signed by a licensed professional engineer showing the proposed layout of the system, including the integrity of any structures under the system;*
- ii. Documentation of compliance with the requirements of the zoning bylaw;*
- iii. A one or three line electrical diagram detailing the solar photovoltaic installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code (NEC) and Massachusetts NEC amendments compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;*
- iv. Documentation of the major system components to be used in the installation, including the solar collectors, mounting system, and inverter;*
- v. The name, address, and phone number for the proposed system installer; and*
- vi. The name, address, phone number, and signature of any agents representing the project's proponents*

~~4. Additional Requirements for Principal, Commercial GSI Rated Over ten (10) kw~~

~~The following additional requirements apply to all GSI that constitute "Principal Uses, Commercial" under Section V.D, Table of Use Regulations of this zoning bylaw... In determining whether to issue a special permit, the Planning Board shall consider the sufficiency of the architectural compatibility of the structures and efforts to screen the structures from view.~~

4. Dimensional Requirements for Ground Mounted Solar Installations (GSI)

- a. GSI shall comply with the dimensional regulations provided in Section VI of this bylaw, evidence of which shall be shown on a certified plot plan and an as-built plan.***
- b. GSI shall be no more than ten (10) feet in height. The Planning Board, by special permit, may increase the allowable height.***

5. Accessory Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses rated over ten kilowatts (10 kW) shall require site plan review pursuant to Section X. of this bylaw.

6. Requirements for Principal, Commercial Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses

The following additional requirements apply to all Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses used for principal commercial purposes:

- a. Site Plan Review: A Solar Energy Collection Apparatus proposed as a principal use shall undergo site plan review pursuant to Section X of this bylaw; and***
- b. Special Permit: A Solar Energy Collection Apparatus proposed as a principal use requires a special permit as provided in the Table of Uses in Section V of this bylaw. The Planning Board should consider the review criteria and requirements set forth below when determining suitability for a special permit.***
- c. Special Permit Submittal Requirements: All submittals shall include the following:***
 - i. Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site;***
 - ii. Proof of liability insurance acceptable to the Town; and***
 - iii. Documentation that the Ipswich Municipal Light Department has been informed of the owner or operator's intent to execute a power purchase agreement. If a power purchase agreement is not available at the time of application, a conditional approval can be issued subject to filing of an acceptable power purchase agreement.***
- d. Special Permit Review Criteria***

In determining whether to issue a special permit, the Planning Board shall consider:

- i. Open Space and Agricultural Impact: Consistent with the Town's open space preservation goals, the owner of the land on which a Solar Energy Collection Apparatus is proposed to be situated must submit to the Planning Board a report on the open space impacts of the installation,***

including but not limited to:

- a) *A general description of the installation site, including proximate natural features, flora, fauna, wetlands, and waterways;*
 - b) *Any trees and other wildlife to be displaced by the installation;*
 - c) *Any efforts to mitigate groundwater management issues caused by increase in impervious surface if applicable;*
 - d) *The suitability of the installation location for agriculture, including information about soil grade and any history of agriculture uses on the site within ten (10) years prior to special permit or site plan review; and*
 - e) *Any environmental remediation efforts that the owner or operator anticipates will be necessary for installation, maintenance, or removal of the installation.*
- ii. *Land Clearing, Soil Erosion and Habitat Impacts: Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Solar Energy Collection Apparatus or otherwise proscribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws.*
- iii. *Operation and Maintenance Plan: The applicant shall submit a plan for the operation and maintenance of the Solar Energy Collection Apparatus, which shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, storm water controls, as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation.*
- iv. *Site Condition Suitability: All appurtenant structures, including but not limited to equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other. Structures shall be screened from view by vegetation, fencing, or physical topography to the extent reasonable considering the characteristics of the individual site.*

e. Financial Surety Requirement

Proponents of Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses shall provide a form of surety, either through an escrow account, a bond, or otherwise, to cover the cost of removal in the event the town must remove the installation and remediate the landscape. Such surety will not be required for municipally- or state-owned facilities. The project proponent shall submit a fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal, prepared by a qualified engineer. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation. The amount of the surety need not exceed one hundred twenty-five percent (125 %) of this number, provided it is deemed reasonable by the Planning Board. The form of surety shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Planning Board.

f. Safety Requirements

The Solar Energy Collection Apparatus owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the Ipswich Fire Chief and, if connected to the grid, to the Ipswich Municipal Light Department. Upon request, the owner or operator shall cooperate with Ipswich emergency services in developing a response plan. All means of shutting down the installation shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.

g. Requirements for Abandonment and Decommissioning

- i. Abandonment: Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, the Solar Energy Collection Apparatus shall be considered abandoned when the entire facility fails to operate for one year or more without the written consent of the Planning Board. If the owner or operator of the installation fails to remove the installation according to the requirements of this section within one hundred fifty (150) days of either abandonment or the proposed date of decommissioning, the Town may enter the property and physically remove the installation.***
- ii. Removal Requirements: Any Solar Energy Collection Apparatus which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned as described in the above paragraph shall be removed. The owner or operator shall physically remove the installation no more than one hundred fifty (150) days after the date of the discontinued operations. The owner or operator shall notify the Planning Board by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal. Decommissioning shall consist of:***
 - a) Physical removal of all parts of the Solar Energy Collection Apparatus from the site, including but not limited to installations, structures, equipment, security barriers, and transmission lines;***
 - b) Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations; and***
 - c) Environmental stabilization and re-vegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion and restore soil quality. The Planning Board may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping in order to minimize erosion and disruption of vegetation.”***

2) Amend the Table of Use Regulations and Footnote “36” in Section V.D. as shown:

TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS										
PRINCIPAL USE	DISTRICT									
Commercial	RRA ¹⁶	RRB ¹⁶	RRC ¹⁶	IR ¹⁶	GB ¹⁶	CB ¹⁶	HB ¹⁶	PC ¹⁶	I ¹⁶	LI ¹⁶
Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations <i>Solar Energy Collection Apparatus</i>	SPB ^{17, 36}	SPB ^{17, 36}	SPB ^{17, 36}	SPB ^{17, 36}	SPB ^{17, 36}	SPB ^{17, 36}	SPB ^{17, 36}	SPB ^{17, 36}	P ^{17, 36}	SPB ^{17, 36}
ACCESSORY USE										
Non-habitable Solar Energy Collection Apparatus	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶
Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶	P ³⁶

FOOTNOTES TO USE REGULATIONS

36. ~~Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations (GSI) rated over 10 kilowatts (kw)~~ *Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses* are subject to the regulations in Section IX.Q. of this bylaw.”

3) Amend Section VI. Dimensional and Density Regulations as follows:

- a. Amend footnote “7.” in the Footnotes to Table of Dimensional and Density Regulations in subsection B., to read as follows:

“7. The Zoning Board of Appeals may reduce by special permit the minimum setback requirements for ~~non-habitable~~ solar energy collection apparatuses up to a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of any such requirement.”

- b. Amend subsection G. Other Dimensional and Density Requirements, paragraph 2 as follows:
 - Amend sub-paragraph “b.” as follows: “Broadcasting and television antennae, bulkheads, cooling towers, ventilators, mechanical systems, *Solar Energy Collection Apparatuses*, and other appurtenances usually carried about the roof and not in any manner used for human occupancy may have a height up to fifteen percent (15%) greater than the applicable height limitation of this section.”
 - Add a new sub-paragraph “g.”, to read as follows, “*g. The maximum height of a Solar Energy Collection Apparatus is established by IX.Q.4.b of this zoning bylaw.*”

4) Amend Section X. Site Plan Review, B. Applicability, by adding a new paragraph “5”, to read as follows:

“5. Any activity or use that is indicated elsewhere in this bylaw as requiring site plan review.”.

A MOTION TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION was made by Michael Schaaf and duly seconded to

Replace the word “properties” in the first sentence in the glare provision in Section IX.Q 3 (d) (iv) with the words “principal residences and immediate environs”.

MODERATOR DECLARATION TO THE AMENDED MOTION: FAILED BY A MAJORITY

Seven voters stood; the Moderator called for the Counters to count voter cards.

MODERATOR DECLARATION TO THE AMENDED MOTION: FAILED (YES-96, NO-219)

MODERATOR DECLARATION TO THE MAIN MOTION: Carries by Declared 2/3 Vote

Article Eight Solar Access Amendment Dimensional and Density Regulations

A MOTION was made by Heidi Paek, and duly seconded, to

Amend the Ipswich Protective Zoning Bylaw as follows:

(~~Strikethrough~~=language to be deleted; ***bold italics***= language to be added)

Amend Section VI. Dimensional and Density Regulations by adding a new sub-section, “J. Solar Access”, to read as follows:

“J. Solar Access

The owner of a parcel of land abutting a lot which contains a solar energy collection apparatus shall not construct or install an accessory building or structure, plant vegetation, or erect an opaque fence in a manner that blocks the solar energy collection apparatus’s access to sunlight. For the purposes of this subsection J., the installation of any accessory building, structure, vegetation or fence on the abutting lot that causes the solar energy collection apparatus to be shaded between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., on any day of the year, shall be considered to block the solar energy collection apparatus’s access to sunlight.”

A MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND THE MODERATOR DECLARED THIS MOTION PASSED BY A DECLARED 2/3 VOTE

MODERATOR DECLARATION ON THE MAIN MOTION: FAILED by a Declared 2/3 Vote

A **MOTION** was made by Keith Anderson, and duly seconded, to

Amend the Ipswich Protective Zoning Bylaw as follows:

(~~Strikethrough~~=language to be deleted; ***bold italics***= language to be added)

1) Amend “Section III. Definitions” by modifying the definition of “Inn” as shown below:

~~INN: A building or group of buildings containing no more than 15 guest rooms without individual cooking facilities for transient occupancy and let for compensation. A restaurant, dining room, and/or related retail and consumer services, intended primarily for serving the guest room occupants and only incidentally the public, may be provided within the building or buildings.~~ ***A building or group of buildings containing no more than fifteen (15) guest rooms without individual cooking facilities for transient occupancy and let for compensation. A restaurant, function and dining room, and/or related retail and consumer services may be provided for public use within the building or buildings.***

2) Amend “Section V. Use Regulations. D. Table of Use Regulations”, as follows:

TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS (cont’d)										
PRINCIPAL USE	DISTRICT									
Commercial (cont’d)	RRA ¹	RRB ¹	RRC ¹	IR ¹⁶	GB ¹⁶	CB ¹⁶	HB ¹⁶	PC ¹⁶	I ¹⁶	LI ¹⁶
Hotels and Motels	—	—	—	—	P	P	P	SPB	P	SP B
Inn, including conversion of an existing dwelling into an inn ²⁵	SBA <i>SPB</i>	—	SBA <i>SPB</i>	P <i>SPB</i>	P	P	P	P	P	SB <i>A</i> <i>SP</i> <i>B</i>
Bed & Breakfast establishment, including conversion of an existing dwelling into a bed & breakfast establishment	SPB	—	SPB <i>SPB</i>	SPB	P	P	P	P	—	SB <i>A</i> <i>SP</i> <i>B</i>
Bed & Breakfast Home	SPB	—	SPB	P	—	—	P	—	—	—
ACCESSORY USE	DISTRICT									
Accessory Use (Manager Unit): Inn	SPB	—	SPB	SPB	SPB	SPB	SPB	SPB <i>SPB</i>	SP B	SP <i>SP</i> <i>B</i>

TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS (cont'd)										
PRINCIPAL USE	DISTRICT									
Accessory Use (Manager Unit): Bed & Breakfast establishment	XX SPB	SPB —	XX SPB	SPB	SPB	SPB	SPB	SPB	—	XX SPB
Accessory Use (Manager Unit): Hotels, Motels	—	—	—	—	SPB	SPB	SPB	SPB	SP B	XX SPB

And further by adding a second sentence to footnote 25 in the Table of Uses in Section V of the Ipswich Protective Zoning Bylaw, said sentence to read: “Any inn established in the IR District prior to the 2015 amendment to the definition of an inn shall continue to be governed by the definition in effect at the time the use was established, or the building permit was issued therefor, unless a special permit for an inn is issued by the Planning Board.”

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Passes by a Declared 2/3 Vote

Article Ten

Miscellaneous Zoning Amendments

A **MOTION** was made by John Stanbury, and duly seconded, to

Amend the Ipswich Protective Zoning Bylaw as follows:

(~~Strikethrough~~=language to be deleted; ***bold italics*** = language to be added)

1) Amend Section “IV. Zoning Districts, B. Intent of Districts, 8. Limited Industrial”, as follows:

“8. The Limited Industrial District is intended for ~~some~~ ***and office*** light industrial, wholesale, warehouse and office uses. Industrial uses which require smelting or chemical reduction or which might constitute a nuisance due to odor, fumes, dust, vibration, heat, glare, noise, (i.e., have a decibel level over fifty-five (55) more than fifty (50) feet from the premises), or other nuisance characteristic are not intended. Retail ~~and office uses are~~ ***is*** prohibited...”

2) Amend Section “VIII. Signs, C. Definitions”, by striking the definition of “Special Permit Granting Authority” in its entirety.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Passes by a Declared 2/3 Vote

Article Eleven

Athletic Fields Bond

A **MOTION** was made by Hugh O’Flynn, and duly seconded, to

Authorize the Treasurer to borrow a sum not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the design and construction of an artificial turf field at the Ipswich Middle School and High School, and to raise this appropriation by authorizing the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to

issue bonds or serial notes under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, as amended.

A **MOTION** was made by Philip Goguen, duly seconded to.

Vote on this article by paper ballot

MODERATOR DECLARATION On Mr. Goguen's Motion: FAILED

MODERTATOR DECLARATION TO MAIN MOTION: Passed by a Declared 2/3 Vote

Article Twelve **Open Space Parcel List Additions**

A **MOTION** was made by Edward Rauscher, and duly seconded, to

Add the parcel of land listed as the land now or formerly of the Belosselsky Ipswich Realty Trust or US Trust Bank of America at 298 Argilla Road, also known as Assessor's Map 33, Parcel 14, consisting of approximately 20.5 to the Open Space Parcels List (as referenced in Article 18 of the Warrant for the April 3, 2000, Annual Town Meeting).

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Declared Passes Unanimously

Article Thirteen **Additional ZBA Alternate**

A **MOTION** was made by Judy Field, and duly seconded, to

To see if the Town will vote to amend "Section XI.F of the Ipswich Protective Zoning Bylaw as follows: (~~Strikethrough~~ = language to be deleted; ***bold italics*** = language to be added)

F. Zoning Board of Appeals

"A Zoning Board of Appeals consisting of five (5) members and ~~two (2)~~ ***three (3)*** associate members shall be appointed as provided in Section 12 of Chapter 40A of the General Laws... The chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals may designate one of the associate members to sit on the Zoning Board as a voting member in case of absence, inability to act or conflict of interest on the part of any member thereof, or in the event of a vacancy on the Zoning Board until such vacancy is filled in the manner provided in Section 12 of Chapter 40A.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: FAILED by a Declared 2/3 Vote

Article Fourteen **Miscellaneous Conservation Bylaw Amendments**

A **MOTION** was made by William Craft, and duly seconded, to

Amend "Chapter XVIII. Wetlands Protection By-Law" of the Ipswich General By-Laws as follows:

(~~Strikethrough~~ = language to be deleted; ***bold italics*** = language to be added)

1) Amend SECTION 2: JURISDICTION as follows:

“Except as permitted by the Conservation Commission or as provided in this By-Law, no person shall remove soil or vegetation from, fill, dredge, build upon, discharge into, or alter the following Resource Areas: Coastal wetlands, Freshwater wetlands,...or land within 150 feet of the ~~Parker River/Essex Bay~~ ***Great Marsh*** Area of Critical Environmental Concern; ***or Riverfront Area as defined by M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40, as most recently amended.***”

2) Amend SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS, EXEMPTIONS, TIME FRAMES, REQUIREMENTS, AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS as follows:

“Except as otherwise provided in this By-Law or regulations of the Commission, ***including but not limited to Section 19 of this By-Law***, the definitions of terms, exemptions, limited projects, performance standards, time frames, and requirements in this By-Law ...as may be amended from time to time.

The term “~~Parker River/Essex Bay~~ ***Great Marsh*** Area of Critical Environmental Concern” shall include that portion of the state-approved “~~Parker River/Essex Bay~~ ***Great Marsh*** ACEC ... as further shown on a map entitled ~~Parker River/Essex Bay~~ ***Great Marsh*** Area of Critical Environmental Concern ... from the United States Geological Service.

The term “Fresh Water Wetland” shall include any marsh, bog, swamp or wet meadow, whether or not it borders on a water body... A wetland not bordering on a body of water and not exceeding 5000 square feet shall not be subject to protection under this By-Law, ***unless said wetland is or can be certified as a Vernal Pool, as established by Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program’s “Guidelines for Certification of Vernal Pool Habitat.***

The term “Alter” shall mean to change the condition of any area subject to protection under this By-Law. Examples of alterations include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) Removal, excavation, or dredging of soil, sand, gravel, or aggregate materials of any kind; ...
- h) Destruction of plant life ~~including cutting of more than five mature trees~~; ...
- k) Application of pesticides and/or herbicides.”

3) Amend SECTION 4. FILING PROCEDURE as follows:

“A permit application (“Application” ~~or “Notice”~~), which may be identical in format to a ~~Notice of Intent~~ ***state Wetlands Protection Act forms***, as required pursuant to MGL Chapter 131 Section 40, shall, at a minimum, have the same content as that required by ~~“Notice of Intent”~~ ***these forms***. The application shall include such plans as may be necessary to ... protect the interests identified in this By-Law.

No work shall begin until the permit, which may be the same as the ~~Order of Conditions~~ ***permits*** issued under M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, has been issued, all appeal periods

have expired, and said permit, *if required by M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40*, has been recorded ... in accordance with Section 18 of this By-Law.

The application shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt, or hand delivered to the Ipswich Conservation ~~Commission~~ **Office** at the Town Hall, or ~~in its absence~~ *if necessary* to the Town Clerk **Planning Office**. No such ~~notice~~ **application** shall be sent before all permits, variances, and approvals, except ... that such application may be filed ... after the filing of an application or applications for said permit, variances, and approvals; provided, that such ~~notice~~ **application** shall include any information ... necessary to describe the effect of the proposed activity on the interests protected by this By-Law.”

4) Amend SECTION 9: PERMITS AND CONDITIONS as follows:

“In the event of a denial of an application, the Commission shall set forth in detail the reasons for the denial. ~~The Commission shall then file its decision with the Town Clerk, a copy of which shall be recorded in a book kept for the purpose,~~ and shall send notice of such action to the applicant ... to the address stated on the application... An applicant may apply for an extension ... and the Commission may grant extensions for one or more periods of up to three years each. ~~Notice of any extensions of time granted an applicant shall be filed with the Town Clerk.~~”

5) Amend SECTION 12: EMERGENCY PROJECTS

“A certificate of emergency condition shall be filed with the Commission by the Board, Town Manager, Agency, or Commission which authorized the project, within fourteen (14) days after the initiation of work, ~~and a copy thereof shall be recorded by the Town Clerk.~~”

6) Amend SECTION 19: EFFECTIVE DATE as follows:

“This By-Law shall not apply to those projects or activities which are exempt from the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, as amended ~~and 310 CMR 10.00, as amended~~. ***This By-Law does not exempt those activities cited in 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b), as may be amended, unless specifically cited in the Ipswich Wetland Protection By-Law Rules and Regulations.***”;

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Declared Motion Carries

A MOTION was made by William Craft and duly seconded, to

Vote to conduct the remainder of the Town Meeting Warrant Articles beyond 11:00 PM.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Carries

Article Fifteen

Citizen’s Petition

A MOTION was made by Joni Soffron, and duly seconded, to

Amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Ipswich by inserting the following new Section 2 in Chapter IV, and by renumbering Sections 2 through 8 as 3 through 9, respectively:

Section 2: Eligibility to Serve on Town Boards and Committees

(a) An appointed member of any town board or committee established under the General Laws of Massachusetts, the Town Charter, these General Bylaws, or a vote of Town Meeting shall be a resident of Ipswich at the time of his or her appointment. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 41, § 109, if an elected or appointed board or committee member removes from the Town of Ipswich during his or her term, he or she shall be deemed to have vacated his office.

(b) No person who serves as a paid employee of the Town of Ipswich shall be eligible for appointment to any board or committee having jurisdiction over the office, agency or department in which he or she is employed. No town employee with supervisory authority over any town department shall be eligible for appointment to any board or committee with jurisdiction over that department for one year following the termination of his or her employment.

(c) No person shall serve simultaneously as a member or alternate member of more than one of the following town boards: Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. The acceptance of a second position on any of the boards listed herein by a member of another such board shall be cause for removal of that member from his or her first appointment.

(d) Unless otherwise disqualified from service as provided in this Section, an appointed member of a town board or committee shall continue in office until his or her successor is appointed, unless he or she sooner resigns or is removed by the appointing authority.

A MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND THE MODERATOR DECLARED THIS MOTION PASSED BY A DECLARED 2/3 VOTE

MODERATOR DECLARATION ON THE MAIN MOTION: FAILED

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Town Meeting is dissolved at 11:32 PM

Respectfully submitted, Pamela Z. Carakatsane, CMMC/CMC Town Clerk

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Nishan D. Mootafian, Chair

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen I would like to thank all of our town residents and employees for making Ipswich the special and extraordinary town we all love. The Town of Ipswich provides both residents and visitors a wide variety of locations and activities that highlight all of the special qualities of our community. We are fortunate to have so many people dedicated to maintaining the small town feel that Ipswich provides along with opportunities for growth. We would also like to thank all of the local business who provide opportunities for employment to our local residents and also contribute the continued growth of our town. 2015 was an extraordinary year for our town. The highlights were:

- The continued success of the Re-creation Department and all of the events, from downtown dancing, Good in the Hood and the Farmers Market.
- The great popularity of the summer concerts at the castle.
- The annual Open Doors event, that highlights the many historic and extraordinary homes located in Ipswich.
- The record voter turnout for the \$2.9 million school override that showed that Ipswich values education and the continued excellence of our students
- The funding of the new turf field that will benefit the student athletes and youth sport teams that call Ipswich home
- The grant we received from the state to begin our 5yr budget which will allow us to start planning for the long term financial health of our town.
- Welcoming our new Building Inspector Anthony Torra, Animal Control Officer Megan Boissonneau and Library Director Patty DiTullio.

We also have many challenges facing us in the coming year:

- The continued work that has been ongoing since 2014 to build a new elementary school.
- Maintaining the balance between providing the services that the residents expect and staying within the budget.
- Continuing the collaboration efforts between the town and schools – this has been successful but would need to continue to be reviewed for new opportunities.

During the year several long-time employees retired and we would like to recognize their valuable contribution to Ipswich:

Robert Comeau
Victor Dyer
Donald George
Patricia Valcour

Paula Grillo
Rita Negri
James Sperber

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mitch Feldman, Chairman

The principal purpose of the Town of Ipswich Finance Committee is to make independent recommendations to Town Meeting concerning the annual Town and School budgets and all warrant articles. By doing so, the Finance Committee seeks to ensure the long term financial health of town government. Moreover, the Finance Committee seeks to guide the town's finances to contribute to a fulfilling quality of life for its citizens. We believe that this is achieved by efficiently providing capable schools, quality town services, and a well-maintained town infrastructure, all funded in part by a property tax rate that compares favorably with peer communities. The Committee reviews and considers any matter which may have a long or short-term fiscal impact on the town, including gathering relevant and accurate information from Town boards, departments, and employees. The Town Charter charges the Finance Committee with providing an annual report prior to the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting to registered Ipswich voters.

TOWN MANAGER

Robin Crosbie, Town Manager

In 2015, the Town Manager's Office continued working in three focus areas established in 2013: operational improvement, planning, and economic development.

Operational improvement includes developing closer working relationships among departments and between operations, and hiring the right people who are committed to providing good service to the community in their respective roles. In 2015, Library Director Patty DiTullio and Building Inspector Anthony Torra joined the management team. Patty has undertaken major programmatic changes in the Library, generating more participation by teens, as well as other groups, and updating the library's offerings. Tony and newly hired Assistant Inspector Sal Votano closed out hundreds of open permits, and expedited plan reviews and permit approvals. Weekly management staff meetings improve communication among department heads and Town departments continue to improve interaction with and responsiveness to citizens and businesses. Citizens and businesses can also leave anonymous feedback through a new citizen input form available in town hall.

The Town Manager convened a group of volunteers to assess handicapped access to housing, businesses and town facilities. The group undertook several steps to improve these opportunities: letters to managers of housing facilities reminding them of their obligation to ensure accessible living units are provided first to handicapped persons; engaged town boards and committees to include accessible low/moderate income housing (as opposed to simply low/moderate income housing) for both adults and families; and notified businesses of our willingness to assist them in making them more accessible to those with disabilities. We also

have a work plan for the coming year and hope to keep momentum going, making Ipswich more accessible for all.

After months of planning and preparations, the Town launched a new Town website in 2015. This effort, undertaken by a website task force, was coordinated by staff in the Town Manager's Office. Website expansion and refinement continues, as we implement suggestions and undertake new improvements.

Water and wastewater reserve policies were developed and adopted by the Board of Selectmen, acting as Commissioners. The Selectmen also adopted a debt policy. These actions are in keeping with the on-going effort of developing sound financial policies for operational and planning purposes.

Continuing efforts to maintain town assets, the Five Year Capital Plan was updated, and will be presented to the May 2016 Annual Town Meeting for approval. The Town Manager and the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen both serve on the School Building Committee and participated in numerous meetings and forums as the MSBA-funded elementary school building project evolved this past year. Both Winthrop and Doyon Schools are aged and outdated, and the School Building Committee will be continuing the process of involving the community in the process to design and construct a new elementary school. In response to a need for more access to playing fields for youth and school sports, the Town Manager and Chairman of the Board of Selectmen also worked closely with the School Department and town youth sports associations to fund the forthcoming artificial turf field at the High School without a debt exclusion, and developed a mechanism to fund future repairs to the field. Artificial turf will support increased field use and benefit town youth sports overall, and, hopefully, generate income for future repairs from paid use by outside groups

The Town Manager re-organized the Planning and Development Department in 2015, hiring Senior Planner Ethan Parsons to fill a vacant position. Ethan has been working directly with the Planning Board in coordinating review and approval of projects, such as the redevelopment of the former O'Keefe Chevrolet site. Planning and Development Director Glenn Gibbs is primarily focused on efforts to advance and improve economic development. After the culmination of many years of discussion and planning, the first phase of wayfinding signage will be installed in 2016 under Glenn's guidance. Glenn also undertook coordination of the donation process of public art in conjunction with the Public Art Advisory Committee in 2015.

The Town Manager also created the Economic Development Advisory Group (EDAG), comprised of local business leaders and individuals with marketing and development talent, to advise the Director of Planning, Town Manager and Board of Selectmen on strategies and actions to support business improvement. An encouraging development is the interest of a developer in the purchase and development of the Old Town Hall. We are hopeful that this development, which is still underway at the time of the writing of this report, will resolve litigation undertaken by the town against the original buyer and will revitalize a downtown icon.

In summary, I am confident that the Town is on a good track. We have talented and energized staff, and, with the support of the citizens, are providing them with resources they need to serve

the community of Ipswich. In 2016, look for Linebrook construction to begin, wayfinding signs to appear, an artificial turf field to develop, businesses to expand or open, additional road improvements and a plan for an elementary school.

I sincerely thank citizens, volunteers, department directors, staff and employees for their guidance, service, and for their on-going efforts at community improvements. As always, I invite Ipswich residents to visit the Town website at www.ipswichma.gov to keep informed of the many activities and projects underway in their town government.

PURCHASING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Frank V. Antonucci, Purchasing Director

The Management Services Department consists of Purchasing and Management Services. Purchasing oversees the municipal purchase of all goods and services and public construction bids including some requested School Department bids. All goods and services expenditures over \$35,000 and all public works or building projects over \$10,000 are subject to public bidding requirements under Massachusetts General Laws. All bids and contract files are kept on file in the Purchasing Office for public review. Disposition of surplus Town owned property including vehicles or other office equipment is also handled by the Purchasing Office.

Management Services handles all insurance claims related to property damage claims including vehicles and general liability. Insurance renewals, loss reports, vehicle and property inventories are kept on file in the Purchasing Office. Risk Management also coordinates town and school departmental participation in the MIIA Rewards program which provides insurances premium discounts for safety trainings and policy planning activities that reduce operational risks. Management Services is also responsible for the compiling, editing, printing and the distribution of the Town Report. Selected grant writing is also undertaken for various departments.

Some municipal and school projects bid this 2015 year are small project construction, vehicles and property disposition, ambulance services, investment services, organic waste pickup and disposal, Utilities tree trimming, elevators, various roads resurfacing and sidewalks, Town Hall AC project, snow plow services, Owner Project Manager Services for School Building project and school design services, WTP roof, Recreation Services, vending machines, gym floor resurfacing, Police Electric Generator project.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul A. Nikas – Chief of Police

Jonathan M. Hubbard – Executive Officer

During 2015, the Department completed an internal analysis of its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) to delivering police services to the public. As a result of this internal analysis we identified:

I. Strengths of the Ipswich Police Department

- The experience of our work force
- Good Community support
- Staff commitment to goals and values
- Specialized and advanced training provides opportunity for staff and the ability to meet Community needs

II. Current Weaknesses of the Ipswich Police Department

- Current Police facility reduces efficiency in police functions
- Lack of a proper training facility
- Lack of proper interview & interrogation rooms
- Stability of the work force
- Lack of well-established patrol equipment needed to meet community expectations
- Lack of access to statistical data to improve the efficiency of police actions

III. Opportunities for the Ipswich Police Department

- Development of an internal leadership and management program targeting the development of new and future leaders
- New specialized units designed to address the ongoing narcotics issue in Ipswich and surrounding communities
- New specialized unit designed to enhance traffic & parking enforcement in the community
- Implementation of a new Records Management System computer platform to aid in data collection and officer efficiency

IV. Known and Anticipated Threats to the Ipswich Police Department

- The continued aging and decline of the facility and the need for a new station to meet anticipated public safety services in the immediate future
- Increased narcotics use and abuse within the community, which brings with it a known criminal element, resulting in increased violence and property crimes
- Increased pressure on Police services transitioning to community caretakers and social workers, such as handling mental health incidents & child protection issues
- Increased pressure on Police services to address nuisance calls and quality of life issues, such as parking and traffic complaints without funding to meet this need

As a result of the SWOT analysis, a five year strategic plan was developed collaboratively by the Department as a working document to assist us in evaluating the continued development of the agency as well as the developments and challenges expected in Ipswich and in policing in the next five years. Please take some time and review the full document, which is located on the Ipswich Police Department page, on the Town's website located at <http://www.ipswichma.gov/>

Department's MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of the Ipswich Police Department is to improve the quality of life in the Town of Ipswich. This goal will only be accomplished through a partnership with the Police Department and the community. By working together we can maintain the peace, provide safety and security for our citizens, reduce the fear of crime and solve problems.

To be successful in our mission, it requires the commitment of the Administration, every employee of this Department and the citizens of our Town, all working together to ensure the Ipswich Police Department meets its own expectations and that of the citizens.

The Ipswich Police Department is committed to delivering quality service in an effective, compassionate and professional manner. To meet this commitment, the following four values must be the basis for all of our actions: Respect, Integrity, Excellence & Professionalism.

1. RESPECT

We recognize that our officers are our greatest asset, and our actions shall reflect this belief. The officers will respect the citizens and recognize their ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic diversity. We will respect each other as professionals and fellow human beings.

2. INTEGRITY

We recognize the authority of federal, state and local laws. Honesty and truth must be the standards in all our interactions with the community and with our members. We are committed to the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct, which create the cornerstones of our profession.

3. EXCELLENCE

We will strive for personal and professional excellence, dedication to duty and the delivery of quality service to the public. We will continue to pursue excellence through quality training, recruitment, hiring and supervision. We are part of a team dedicated to the safety and protection of our community. Our actions will reflect intelligent, efficient, sincere and courteous service.

4. PROFESSIONALISM

We treat the public and our colleagues with courtesy and respect. We understand that our appearance, words, and demeanor contribute to the public's confidence in us. We are responsive to the community, and deliver services fairly, impartially, and with transparency.

Beyond the SWOT analysis and the completing of the Strategic Plan, 2015 was a year of continued transition and change for the Police Department. Following two retirements of officers, and a delay in hiring due to extensive background investigation, the Department operated 6 months of 2015 with a 12% reduction in manpower (3 positions). Two newly hired officers, Ofc Brian Murphy and Matt Lemire, entered the six month Police Academy in February while one position remained vacant. After graduation from the Academy, each new officer participates in the newly developed 4-6 weeks *Field Training Officer Program (FTO)*. This new training program assigns newly hired police officers to a veteran officer who is certified as a State FTO. The FTO's provide training and teaching points to the new officers as they interact with the public and other law enforcement personnel. Additionally, they train the new officers on Department Policy, Rules & Regulations, booking procedures, radio communications and in-house computer systems. As the FTO's observe the new officers on a daily basis, they provide feedback, corrective training and complete weekly written evaluations on the new officer's development. These weekly evaluations are reviewed by the Training Sergeant who, at the end of the first four weeks, recommends the new officer continue FTO training or be released from the program and assigned to a patrol shift. The Training Sergeant's recommendation and FTO's weekly evaluations are sent to the Lieutenant, who oversees the entire training program. Final approval to assign a new officer to a patrol shift is made by the Chief of Police. This multilevel training and review process is designed to ensure new officers are capable of providing a standard of excellence the Ipswich Police Department and the citizens of Ipswich expect from their Police Department and ensuring they have the tools to meet those expectations.

The Department was awarded a total of \$21,500 for a series of State grants, which will carry over into 2016, for saturation patrols. This money comes through The Executive Office of Public

Safety and Security, Highway Safety Division and is broken up into independent mobilizations throughout the year targeting speeding, impaired driving, distracted driving, aggressive driving, pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, and child safety seat classes. In addition to these grants, the Department received over \$100,000 in federal forfeiture money which it used to purchase new police equipment, such as computer servers, computer software, portable police radios and a new ATV for search and rescue missions in the town woods. All these items came at no cost to the taxpayer.

Operationally, the Police Department had a very active year in terms of call volumes and professional development training. The Police log reflected a total of 23,668 calls for police services in 2015 which represents a 21% increase from 2014. Also keeping officers busy was an increase of Medical Aids from 1104 to 1119. However, trending in the right direction the Department saw the total number arrests decreased by 35% in 2015, dropping from a five year high of 156 arrests a year ago to 101 arrests this year.

Ipswich Police Statistics	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Alarms	715	725	622	718	701
Adult Arrest / Summonses	151	89	113	156	101
Assaults	17	23	22	15	15
B&E	68	31	28	17	18
Domestic Complaints	92	74	64	63	64
Harassing Calls	36	19	20	76	67
Malicious Property Damage	25	39	19	19	13
Motor Vehicle Accidents	268	246	272	276	302
Suspicious Activity	414	395	365	408	314
Animal Related	260	246	282	275	241
Juvenile Arrest Summons	9	7	2	6	7
Assaults / Dangerous Weapon	3	2	6	5	0
Disturbances	263	221	250	205	145
Fraud / ID Theft	22	34	30	48	40
Larcenies	124	81	96	93	53
Medical Aids	896	912	964	1104	1119
Missing Persons	7	17	4	13	4
Protective Custody	9	10	9	15	6
Stolen Vehicle Recovery	1	1	1	3	0
B&E Motor Vehicle	47	12	11	5	10
Vandalism	40	51	74	37	43
Incident Totals	3467	3235	3254	3557	3263
Calls for Service	13,389	14,139	13,965	19,549	21,114
Total Calls*	15,041	15,595	15,745	22,181	23,668

OUI Arrest	32	17	27	39	34
MV Arrests (inc. OUI)	48	16	35	57	55
Drug Arrest	7	2	9	11	15
Drug Overdoses	5	6	10	8	14

* These totals include Office initiated events such as building checks, traffic enforcement, and parking.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Paul A. Nikas, Director of Public Safety

Paul E. Polonsky, Chief of Communications

Established in 1999, the Ipswich Public Safety Communications Center combines two former units - the police 911 and dispatch center and the fire alarm office - into one modern, high-tech facility. The Center is tasked with answering tens of thousands of emergency and non-emergency calls for the Town of Ipswich each year.

Professionally trained Emergency Telecommunications Dispatchers staff the Ipswich Public Safety Communications Center where they answer 911 and other emergency phones, monitor fire box alarms, and maintain round-the-clock radio communications with all police, fire and contract ambulance units. They dispatch to all emergencies and calls for service, help field personnel coordinate and manage any possible public safety event or incident, operate a variety of computer equipment with access to law enforcement and other information, answer questions from citizens, and provide a wide variety of other services for citizens and responders alike

All dispatchers undergo a three month in house training which includes but is not limited to, learning the Police and Fire Department's computer system, criminal justice procedures for verifying in state and out state warrants, procedures for running criminal background checks both in and out of state, procedures for running vehicle and operator licensing information through the Registry of Motor Vehicles computer systems in all states, becoming familiar with all streets and beats in the city as well as locations of businesses, radio etiquette, Ipswich Police and Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), policies and procedures, and rules and regulations.

Upon completion of the above training all dispatchers are then required by the state of Massachusetts to be trained, tested and certified in the following before become full time dispatchers and going on their own:

- Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)
- Emergency 911 (E911)
- Forty hour offsite 911
- Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS)
- Incident Command Systems (ICS)
- A ride along with the Ipswich Fire Department
- A ride along with the Ipswich Police Department
- A ride along with the Harbor Division

Dispatchers need to be able to multi task and it is not uncommon for a dispatcher to be talking on the phone to a citizen, while entering call into the computer, talking to multiple officer's on the radio, running license plates or warrant checks all at the same time. 911 calls take priority and all dispatchers have the ability to multi task and know what's going on in the dispatcher center at all times including Police, Fire, and EMS. During storms dispatch is the main liaison between Police, Fire and other city agencies such as the highway department, water, department and any other city department that needs involvement. Dispatch is also the department's liaison to all utility companies, tow companies, and other law enforcement agencies. All dispatchers undergo a rigorous background check before being hired by the Department and must not have a criminal background or criminal record of any kind in any state.

In the year 2015, as well as past years, our Public Safety Communications Center has obtained nearly \$50,000.00 annually from State funded Grants through the 9-1-1 surcharge that's assessed on all phone bills to cover equipment upgrades and advanced training for all of our Communications Specialists.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Jonathan Hubbard, Emergency Management Director

Compared to last year's historic snowfall and recovery operations, this 2015 year has been quiet on the Emergency Management area in the public eye. Although the storms were last year, we have just recently finished up with FEMA for reimbursement for the declared disaster for the blizzard of January 2015. In total the Town received 125,802.72 in reimbursement from FEMA. With no major disasters to respond too, Emergency Management has not been in the spotlight as we were last year. We have numerous projects going on behind the scenes to help make the Town of Ipswich more prepared to respond to and recover from all hazards.

We have been very active with community outreach programs this year. We have expanded upon our FEMA Readykids program at the elementary schools and began working with the council on aging to provide a program for seniors to learn the skill necessary to plan and prepare for all hazards events. As part of this program, seniors who completed the program received a Red Cross emergency preparedness kit which was donated by Lahey Clinic. The seniors were also taught basic first aid and fire safety as part of the course with the assistance from the Police and Fire Departments. This led to the seniors wanting more training and in coordination with the Council on Aging, Police, and Emergency Management, a CPR certification program was held.

We continued our program with the two elementary schools based on the FEMA Readykids program. Once a week for 5 weeks we meet with 3rd-5th grade students and teach them about emergency preparedness and the types of disasters we face here in this region and how to prepare for and what to do during an event. At the end of the program they receive an emergency preparedness kit and we encourage the students to go home and teach their siblings and parents how to be ready in an emergency. Our goal is to empower these students to be the emergency management official in their own home. The more homes that are prepared for a disaster, the more resilient our community will become.

Currently, we are working with the National Weather Service to have the Town certified as a Storm Ready community. This is a certification program that has the National Weather Service review our plans and certify that we have the documentation in place to be ready for storm related disasters. This is an intensive process that only a handful of communities in Massachusetts have been able to achieve.

We continue to grow our volunteer program. We currently have one of our volunteers certified by FEMA as a Community Emergency Response Team instructor and we hold two courses a year to certify community members as CERT team members. The training is held in the spring and the fall. You do not have to become a volunteer with Ipswich Emergency Management to take the course. We encourage anyone who is interested in learning about preparedness and disaster response to take the course to help better prepare yourself and your family in times of emergency. If you choose to join our CERT team, continuous training and drills are conducted monthly. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages for information about upcoming courses.

Lastly, I would like to encourage everyone to ensure your profile is up-to-date in our Smart911 system. This system allows us to contact you in an emergency. The system does not automatically load cell phones or email addresses. Please create a safety profile with cell phone numbers and emails so we can ensure our message gets to you in an emergency. I would also like to encourage families who have relatives with disabilities to register on SmartPrepare. This allows us to search for you in an emergency for people with mobility issues, need for power, or other type of developmental issues that may require more assistance during an emergency. If you have any questions about volunteering for our CERT Team or registering for any of our alerting programs, please do not hesitate to call me at the Police Station at 978-356-4343 or email at jhubbard@ipswichpolice.org. Remember, emergency management starts at home. Create a plan and build a kit. For more information on how to do this, please visit our website.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Megan Boissonneau, Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector

From October 5, 2015 to December 31, 2015 Animal Control was able to trap 11 cats from a Feral Colony on High Street. With the help of the Ipswich Humane Group seven of the eleven cats were brought to the shelter, four have since been adopted, three are still at the Shelter awaiting their forever homes. The untagged dog list was revisited in October, Animal Control along with the Town Clerks Office was able to get the list of unlicensed dogs from 321 to 191 by November. A reminder to all residents dog licensing period is January 1st through March 31st yearly, as of April 1st there is a \$10.00 per month or part thereof late fee. Dogs can be registered at the Town Clerks Office during Town Hall hours. I would like to stress the importance of having dogs licensed. A dog license can be the difference between a dog spending the night in the shelter or being reunited with their owner immediately.

Dogs:

- There were 1836 dogs licensed in 2015.
- 8 dogs were picked up.
- 6 barking or other nuisance behavior complaints.
- 6 barking or other nuisance behavior complaints.
- 4 dog bites (10-day quarantines)
- 1-45-day quarantine was issued.
- 6 barking or other nuisance behavior complaints.

Cats:

- 11 Cats trapped.
- 7 cats brought to the shelter,
- 2 cats were neutered/vaccinated and released back due to behavior.
- 1 cat passed away under anesthesia, and 1 cat was euthanized for medical reasons.
- 3 kittens were surrendered by owner. All three adopted to loving homes.
- stray was held for 7 days, and adopted to a new loving home.
- 4-45-day quarantines were issued for wounds of unknown origins.
- 6 month quarantine was issues for a wound of unknown origin on an unvaccinated animal.

Agriculture:

- 4 Chicken related calls
- 1 loose horse
- 2 separate groups of piglets loose
- 97 Barn inspections completed

Wildlife:

- 1 bat in house
- 1 skunk bite on a person
- 8 deceased wildlife on roadway
- 3 injured birds
- 3 seal calls
- 1 specimen was sent to the State Lab for Rabies Testing; results were positive.

Law Enforcement:

- citation written

HARBORS DEPARTMENT

Paul A. Nikas – Chief of Police, Harbormaster

Lt. Jon Hubbard – Executive Officer, Assistant Harbormaster

Ptl. Brian Reed – Assistant Harbormaster, Supervisor

Ptl. Mathew Bodwell – Assistant Harbormaster, Operator

The 2015 boating season began for the Ipswich Harbor Department in early January with the annual renewal notices being sent out to all past mooring holders. This year we continued asking boaters to provide GPS coordinates on their mooring's location. Having GPS locations, combined with a boat's length and the mooring chain's length, improves information on the boat's swing radius. This information will allow the harbors Department to plot a particular mooring's swing radius into a computer and analyze specific mooring fields. With this information, we can determine if a mooring field has been optimized and determine if the field is saturated. If a mooring field is not arraigned optimally, it will allow us to adjust a boat's mooring location to accommodate additional moorings.

The Harbor Department primarily patrols the Ipswich River, Ipswich Bay, Essex River, Back Beach and Plum Island Sound from May through September, with emergency response capabilities until December. Our area of patrol encompasses 43 miles of shoreline, with a jurisdiction out to 3 miles off shore. The primary missions are for search & rescue (SAR) incidents and law enforcement operations. When called upon by the US Coast Guard, we will, and have, responded to emergencies as far out as 5 miles. We issued and regulated 1,047 boat moorings and maintained a waiting list of 169 people. We handled 177 calls for service, made 38 boat stops, issued 20 harbor citations, assisted 48 boats, responded to 23 SAR incidents, and responded to 2 major boat fires. One fire incident was a houseboat moored in Plum Island Sound and the other was a lobster boat which caught fire off the east coast of Plum Island. Thankfully, while each boat was a total loss and sank, there were no injuries to civilians or to the emergency personnel who responded. Both the IPD Marine Patrol Unit and the IFD Marine One responded and worked together to rescue the vessel owners. Because these emergencies pose a significant maritime threat, both units will be training to respond and deal with this type emergency. Additionally, we have requested the purchase of two fire pumps to be utilized on each public safety boat in the future.

Training for Harbor Officers is critical to improving their boating capabilities and ensuring they have the proper skills to meet the public safety needs of the boating public. In 2015, officers attended regional training with the USCG Station Gloucester personnel on Emergency Vessel Towing. This training was designed to improve our rescue capabilities in the event there is a drifting vessel in distress, where personal injury or environmental damage could exist. Emergency Towing skills are often needed to secure these drifting boats before they run aground and are damaged or colliding with another vessel. It is NOT designed to tow a broken down boat in no danger of causing environmental damage or injury to a person.

Harbor Officers and Fire Dept personnel attended a regional maritime training exercise on boom deployment and spill containment at the Town Wharf. This training was sponsored by MassDEP and included personnel from the USCG, Rowley PD & FD and Essex PD & FD. It was an

excellent example of interagency training and coordination in the event of an environmental emergency.

Ipswich hosted a training exercise with Salem PD's Dive Team. The two departments simulated a Search and Rescue (SAR) mission in the Ipswich waterways along Plum Island Sound. It was beneficial for the Salem Dive Team to experience and understand our waterways and the challenges they present, such as strong currents and minimal visibility in the Sound. For in-house training, officers participated in a training curriculum that includes both classroom and "on- water" training. The "on-water" training consisted of vessel boarding procedures rescue drills and GPS search & rescue training.

The Town took delivery of and installed three new sections of docks at the Town Wharf that were funded through the Waterways Improvement Funds. These new sections have increased our dock space along the Wharf enhancing our service to the boating public. We anticipate replacing two more section in 2016.

Each year we attempt to improve our navigational aids by replacing old buoys or by adding additional buoys. This past year we removed several "pole buoys" in the Ipswich River and replaced them with new buoys that were donated by the USCG. These new river markers will aid in the safe and proper navigation of our waters, as well as to clearly mark sandbars. As local boaters are too aware, the Ipswich Bay sandbar(s) shift every year and the Ipswich River is constantly changing her channel. Please notify the Assistant Harbormaster as soon as possible when you believe an adjustment is necessary or you discover a buoy is off station. Ipswich Harbor Officers assist and work closely with the USCG in ensuring placement of ALL area channel markers area properly located. This includes the bell buoys located off the southern tip of Crane Beach and the buoys continuing into Plum Island Sound.

Some other items of note that took place in the 2015 boating season included providing patrol boat patrols during the School's annual Crane Beach Day. Officers provided a public safety presence during the Little Neck Association's annual "Float to the Beach" event. During this event, residents enter the water from the Little Neck dock and float down river to the Little Neck beach. Both events occurred without incident and a fun time was had by all involved.

Please be sure to utilize the Town's pump-out boat service. It is a **FREE** service and is for the benefit of all boaters, clammers, fishermen and water enthusiasts that our waters remain clean. In the 2015 boating season, the pump out boat removed **5,186 gallons** of effluent from area watercraft.



Ipswich Harbor Statistics

Enforcement Actions	38
Mooring Permits	1047
In-State Seasonal Launch Permits - \$35	244
Out of State Seasonal Launch Permits - \$105	0
Mooring Fees Collected	\$88,407
Calls for Service	177
Harbor Violations Issued	20
In-State Daily Launch Permits - \$5	501
Out of State Daily Launch Permits – \$15	31
Launch Fees Collected (Town Wharf)	\$11,510
Boat Excise Taxes (50%)	\$16,060

SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT

Scott LaPreste, Constable

Arnold “Pick” Thistlewood, Asst Constable

The Ipswich Shellfish Department operates to preserve, protect, manage and enhance the shellfish resources and ecological wellbeing of the Ipswich tidal flats through the professional enforcement of federal laws, state laws and local regulations. Our Constables, in a collaborative effort with the stake holders, will strive to insure a sustainable harvest of shellfish and opportunity for those residence who make their living on the tide. To meet these goals, the Shellfish Constable and his assistant patrol of over 900 acres of clam flats, spread out over 43 miles of coastline.

They oversee 107 Commercial permit holders (\$42,800), 139 Recreational permits (\$4170), 90 Nonresident permits (\$13500), 85 Family permits (\$3,400), 41 day permits (\$820) and over a total of 1,000 "Over 60 & 70" free permits. They routinely assist the Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) in testing water quality in all our estuaries to ensure our waters and shellfish are healthy for consumption.

In addition to governing the tidal flats, the Constable manages the administrative side of the Green Crab Trapping Program & Public Aquaculture program, as well as assists the DMF with Ipswich River water testing. Last fall alone our Green Crab program eradicated 37,500 lbs of invasive green crabs and in 2015 we have eradicated 46,500 lbs. This third consecutive year of the Green Crab Trapping Program, combined with an extraordinarily bad winter, resulted in a marked decrease in their populations in the spring. Coincidentally or not, the Ipswich clam flats saw a dramatic increase in clam seed. Some have reported this “seed in” to be the best one they have seen in over twenty years.

IPSWICH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greg Gagnon, Fire Chief



I want to begin this annual report by recognizing one of our own. This past year, the Ipswich Fire Department lost over thirty years of experience with the retirement of Lt. Don George. We wish him a healthy and happy retirement.

In 2015, the Ipswich Fire Department responded to 2,063 calls for service. The fire prevention division, led by Lt. Sean Cronin, conducted 509 inspections and requests for permits. During the year, over 900 children received fire safety instruction as well as dozens of senior adults.

Thanks to the efforts of Jeremy Dalton we received a SAFE grant of \$6,953 which will be used for fire prevention and safety education.

As of January 1, 2015, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts adopted the comprehensive fire code, NFPA 1. The new code brought about many changes and required some extra explaining to our customers. The transition has been fairly smooth but time consuming.

In the area of staffing, John Boyle completed his Firefighter I/II certification through the Massachusetts Fire Academy. We added three new call firefighters to the department. They are Bryan Kane, Michael Bonaiuto and Benjamin Boossarangsi. We look forward to them completing their training and joining us in serving the community. Firefighter Pat Dingle complete his emergency medical technician class and is now certified as an EMT.

In January and February, the Town of Ipswich received a record amount of snowfall that was comprised of two blizzards. During these events we opened and staffed the Linebrook Station around the clock. Many days following each storm were spent clearing the fire hydrants of snow.

Training continues to be a top priority at the Ipswich Fire Department. Lt. Lee Prentiss has been working diligently as our training officer to schedule and present training. His efforts help us

meet our requirements for various certifications and keep members up to date on new or changing standards and practices. Some of the various topics requiring annual training which includes EMS first responder and EMT recertification, ice rescue training, marine operations, wildland firefighting and HIPPA standards.

We were fortunate to receive a multi-agency grant in the amount of \$2000 to train in the event of an oil or gas spill in our waterway. The agencies that participated were the Ipswich Fire and Police Department, Rowley and Police Fire Department, Department of Environmental Protection, US Coast Guard and Essex Fire and Police Department.

We also received a \$2,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to train on our mobile mass decontamination unit.

We continue to maintain our equipment so that it can pass their annual inspection and certification. Such items to be tested annually are all hoses, ladders and pumps. We have our SCBA tested as well as ensure each member has a proper fitted SCBE mask to meet OSHA requirements.

The Ipswich Fire Department, through the work of Lt. Andre Theriault, received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$10,596 to purchase hydrant assist valves. These valves will allow us increase water pressure from the municipal system in the event of a demanding fire. These were placed on each engine and the members of the department have drilled on their use.

Through a capital plan approval, the department purchased new hydraulic extrication tools. These tools are most often seen being used in motor vehicle collisions but can also be utilized in a variety of rescue situations. We also set aside funds for apparatus replacement and SCBA replacement through the stabilization plan.

In December, we rolled out a new computer records management system. This system will allow us to track our activities and comply with state reporting better. The project turned out to be a complete software overhaul for Fire, Police and Dispatch in the town of Ipswich. This was accomplished within budget and with the assistance of grants.

The department was fortunate enough to have some tools donated to assist in our hazardous materials response. We had two iPads and three multi-gas detection meters donated. All members were trained on these and they are now in service.

The Town of Ipswich extended the contract with Action Ambulance to be our EMS transport provider. This is a three year contract that ends in 2018.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Ipswich Fire Department for their dedicated service and the community as a whole for enabling us to serve them.

For future notifications you can find us on our Facebook page at Ipswich Fire Department, Tweeter at @ipswichfire and subscribing to our news flashes via our Notify Me link on www.ipswichma.gov/fire.

2015 Fire Department Service Statistics

Type of Call	
Structure Fire	10
Cooking Fire	2
Vehicle/Equipment Fire	9
Other Outside Fires	26
Medical Aid/Rescue	1084
Motor Vehicle Accident	123
Alarm Activations	342
Good Intent Calls	108
Public Service Call	203
Hazard Conditions-No Fire	94
Miscellaneous	24
Mutual Aid/ Line Box	38
Total	2063
Inspections/FP Activity	509

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORATE

Richard W. Clarke, Director

The Public Works Department is a customer-focused service organization, dedicated to maintaining and improving the town's infrastructure through the efforts of a professional town workforce, outsourced contracting and engineering consultants. With that as our operation, Public Works incorporates an ongoing review of what we do and how we do it, with the intent of delivering high quality service to our customers and enhancing the quality of life in our diverse community. Customer focus, continuous process improvement, human resource development, and resource management are the keys to our success. Public Works has accomplished or is working on the following items in support of our mission.

- Alignment of Public Works budgets, activity and resources with the expectations and goals of the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen.
- Provide technical input to Town boards and commissions on special permits, subdivisions, site plan reviews and commercial and residential development that impact Public Works' Operations and Maintenance (O&M) responsibilities and budget.
- Continued to work through the Storm Water Management Plan to comply with the Phase II Storm Water Rules and Regulations of the Federal Clean Water Act while also investigating new methods and processes to follow to stay in compliance with the upcoming Phase II Storm Water Permit.

- Continued to use Vueworks, which is a Computerized Maintenance Management Software (CMMS) system for all Public Works Divisions to track work orders and service calls.
- Continued to develop and implement Operations and Maintenance plans for existing water quality structures installed for storm water management.
- Use of a pavement management plan to identify and prioritize roads in need of roadway improvements and maintenance as well as to determine what the recommended improvement or maintenance is for each roadway.

HIGHWAY DIVISION

During the warmer months of 2015, the focus was on outdoor construction projects, where personnel skills and heavy equipment produce significant infrastructure repair and improvements to roads, sidewalks, public facilities and storm water structures. The DPW Highway Department, with the assistance of a local contractor, replaced approximately 480' feet of drain pipe on Currier Park and added three manholes to the system to improve the drain system prior to paving the street.

FORESTRY DIVISION

The focus of the Forestry Division in 2015 was on the maintenance of town trees along public ways, particularly on scenic roads and in town cemeteries, parks and open space. The Forestry budget is reimbursed by the Utilities Department for electric line clearing done for the Electric Light Division.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Closer inspection and additional preventive maintenance of vehicles extend the service life and reduce the maintenance costs of a public works fleet. As a result of the recommendations from the Fleet Management Evaluation the Town with assistance from our insurance provider offered recommended trainings to the mechanics in various departments. The DPW is still working on implementing more recommendations with a focus on computerizing maintenance records. The installation of a wash facility would provide a place to rinse off the fleet to reduce the effects of corrosion and extend the life of vehicle bodies; the DPW is working with the Facilities Department on installing a more permanent vehicle wash bay.

TRANSFER STATION

Operated by members of the Highway Division, the Transfer Station is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 AM until 3:30 PM. The Transfer Station accepts yard waste (specifically grass clippings, leaves, brush and small branches), books, textiles, rigid plastic items, tires with rims, fluorescent lights, and waste cooking oil. Residents who do not have JRM trash pickup may bring their recyclables (glass, cans, cardboard, paper, cartons, and plastics 1-7; no Styrofoam) for free to the Transfer Station and put them in the designated bins.

In the past three years, the Town has contracted with North Shore Scrap Metal to collect scrap metal (items with at least 60% metal, such as small appliances, outdoor furniture, grills, lawn mowers and snow blowers) at the Transfer Station. Large white goods, electrical appliances, televisions and computer monitors can be disposed of curbside by scheduling and paying \$25 in advance to JRM directly at 978-536-2500.

Public Works' Special Collections are conducted twice yearly at the Transfer Station. We accept oil-based paints and related products, car batteries, items with mercury and tires without rims (mercury items are also accepted at the Public Works Office at the Town Hall during regular hours of operation). The fall special collection is held in conjunction with the DPW's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day to better serve residents.

SANITATION

Each pound of recyclable material diverted from the trash stream results in a reduction of our trash costs, because the Town is charged a tipping fee for every pound of trash collected. The total tonnage of solid waste in calendar year 2015 (2,868 tons) was a slight increase of 21 tons (approximately .7%) over the 2014 total (2,847 tons). Although recycling rates nationally are down due to the manufacturing of lighter plastics (for beverages) and the drop in newspaper readership, Ipswich's recyclables increased in 2015 to 1,947 tons (from 1,919 tons in 2014). This increase in recycling, in conjunction with diverting these tons from the trash, saved the Town approximately \$120,736 in tipping fees.

Ipswich's pilot curbside composting program continues to grow, with 470 participants by the end of 2015. This curbside service, which residents join voluntarily and pay to receive, diverted approximately 167 tons of organics (food waste) from Ipswich's trash tonnage in 2015. The organics are delivered to Brick Ends Farm in Hamilton, Massachusetts, for composting.

The Ipswich Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) holds three events annually, in February, May and September, for residents to dispose of their Styrofoam and electronics. Styrofoam recycling costs are paid by the RAC, and proceeds from the electronics recycling, for which there is a nominal fee to residents, are shared by various nonprofit organizations in town.

SNOW & ICE OPERATIONS

The winter of 2014-2015 was challenging for the Town employees and contractors who work to keep the roads, public sidewalks, schools and town parking lots safe and passable. The cost for snow and ice operations came over budget due to the record snowfall. The DPW used approx. 2,560 tons of salt during snow and ice operations. Access for emergency response vehicles remains the top priority for town crews during snow and ice operation. Snow removal from sidewalks in close proximity to schools is also a high priority after roadways are cleared for students walking to school.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

William A. Hodge Sr. Facilities Director

Jane Spellman, Assistant to Facilities Director

This report contains the accomplished tasks of the Facilities Department during the calendar year 2015. Daily operations during this period included several major projects.

The Town Facilities Department continues to be merged with the Town School District. The Facilities Department mission for 2015 was to continue the improvement of the overall appearance, safety, and working and living conditions of the buildings within the Ipswich School District and the Municipal Complex within the budgetary constraints put upon us. Additionally, the Facilities Department continued to work to upgrade the preventive maintenance.

The work order system and preventive maintenance for the School District to the buildings and equipment of the School and Town's has proven to be a step in the right direction as far as upkeep and future economical saving. This was accomplished by continuing in-place service contracts from outside vendors and improving the knowledge of the in-house staff. Also to this end, service contracts are in place for Emergency Generators, Fire Alarms, Fire Sprinkler Maintenance, HVAC, Plumbing, Elevator, Electrical Services, and a Maintenance Contract.

Major projects were completed with the additional funds allocated for this purpose. These projects were accomplished by outside vendors, in-house staff, and labor provided by the Essex County Correctional Department. The following are major projects completed during this year:

Town:

Town Hall:

- Removed and replaced carpet in the Building/Health/ZBA Departments area as well as the Purchasing Office and the DPW Office areas.
- Tuck pointed and repaired the parapet wall.
- Removed and replaced two large roof top A/C units.
- Painted the exterior of the Town Hall.
- Removed and replaced columns at Town Hall.
- Repaired and painted Selectmen's Room and the Purchasing Office.

Fire Stations:

- Replaced single pane windows with thermal pane units.
- Removed and replaced two badly deteriorated support columns in the basement.
- Removed and replaced single pane windows at the Linebrook Station.
- Installed new air compressor at Central Fire Station.
- Major electrical upgrades at both Central and Linbrook Fire Stations.

Police Station:

- Major upgrades to the electrical service.
- Installed new generator.
- Rebuilt suspended ceiling.
- Renovated the Evidence Room.

Library:

- Tuck pointed and repaired chimney and roof.
- Repaired and painted the Reference Room and the Rogers Room.
- Retrofitted lighting in the Stack Area.

Bialek Park:

- Re-roofed Storage Building.

Visitors Center:

- Raised the building, removed and replaced rotted sill plates beneath.

Riverwalk:

- Painted fence with Correctional help.

DPW Garage:

- Major electrical service and lighting upgrades.

Animal Shelter:

- Installed alarm system.

Schools:

Middle School/High School:

- Replaced the floor in lower gym and cafeteria area.
- Scraped and refinished floor in the upper gym.
- Major roof repairs and sky lite replacements.
- Major electrical service and lighting upgrades
- Re-carpeted floor in the Performing Arts Center (PAC)
- Installed LED lighting in the PAC.
- Painting project in office areas.
- Major upgrades to plumbing system in the locker shower rooms.
- Recalibrated all uni-vents.

Doyon School:

- Major painting to corridors and some classrooms.
- Electrical service and lighting upgrades.
- Replaced all window blinds.
- Replaced burners and upgraded both boilers.
- Resurfaced and enlarged the parking lot.

Winthrop School:

- Major repairs and upgrades to all exterior doors.
- Replaced window blinds.
- Installed new split unit A/C to office area.

Payne School (Central Administration Office)

- Removed and replaced the roof.
- Removed the old single pane windows and replaced with thermal pane.
- Repaired and painted entrance deck.
- Renovated the fire escape to code.
- Oversight of install of voIP phone system.

In the coming year, the Facilities Department will continue with energy conservation throughout the Town and School District and continue with approved Capital Projects as funded. This is the continuous mission of the Facilities Department to improve the infrastructure of the Town and School District's Physical Plant.

CEMETERY & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Jeffrey M. Putur, Superintendent

The Cemeteries & Parks department is responsible for the care and maintenance of nine cemeteries, five playgrounds, playing fields, parks, common areas, Pavilion Beach and the Ipswich resident side of the boardwalk at Crane's Beach. In addition, we maintain all town-owned Open Space areas, such as Strawberry Hill, Dow Brook Conservation, Shady Creek, Nichols Field, Great Neck Conservation area and Turkey Hill.

Customer service is always a high priority in this department, whether it is town citizens, private contractors, funeral homes or other town departments, we always strive to be courteous and act within a timely manner to all situations that we encounter. We assist civic groups in the many activities that take place throughout the year. Additionally we supply assistance to the Public Works in snow removal, sanding operations and any other emergency situations as needed. We also provide aid to the Town Clerk in setting up voting equipment, tables and chairs for all elections.

In 2015 the staff completed 96 funeral services, completed phase two of our newly established Playground Improvement Plan, which included improvements at Father Ryc's Playground. This past year we also continued with our multiyear process of updating cemetery maps through GIS software and have continued to update and input cemetery records into our computers. This year the department also purchased a mini-excavator for use within our properties from the Cemetery Sale of Lots fund for \$65,000.

In the upcoming year we plan to continue with our aggressive yearly property maintenance, update and digitize cemetery records, continue with updating and creating cemetery maps in GIS format and hope to complete phase three of our playground improvement plan which includes improvements at Howe Street Playground and Bialek Park. Our revenues for 2015 were as follows:

GENERAL FUND REVENUES	
Grave Openings	\$53,650
Foundations	\$13,118
Tent	\$1,050
Bialek Field Fees	\$1,300
TOTAL	\$69,118
TRUST FUND REVENUES	
Sale of Lots	\$9,600
Perpetual Care	\$14,850

DEPARTMENT OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

Anthony Torra, Director

The Building Department also known as Code Enforcement implements and enforces the Massachusetts State Building, Plumbing, Gas and Electrical Code as well as the Ipswich Protective Zoning Bylaw. This is done by staff familiar with these code regulations. The codes are intended to provide safe use of land and structures. Energy codes are also now included in the building code. The protective zoning bylaw are local land use regulations intended to provide the best quality of life for residents, business owners and others as well as protect open space and natural resources.

CODE ENFORCEMENT PERMITS JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

Category / Construction	# of Permits	Total Fees	Value of Work
COMMERCIAL PERMIT	97	100,436	9,928,834
RESIDENTIAL PERMIT	614	252,787	24,101,999
DEMOLITION PERMIT	19	1600	106,800
SHED PERMIT	22	1790	74,838
WOODSTOVE PERMIT	22	2175	68,087
SIGN PERMIT	13	840	44,915
TENT PERMIT	55	2750	104,267
CERTIFICATE OF USE & OCCUPANCY	35	1225	N/A
CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION - ANNUAL	104	7,425	N/A
CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION - PERIODIC	16	1,346	N/A
SHEET METAL PERMIT	51	8,970	849,208
TRENCH PERMITS	0	0	0
Totals	1048	\$381,344	\$35,278,948

PERMITS	# of Permits	Total Fees
PLUMBING	296	\$35,160
GAS	293	\$23,010
ELECTRIC	532	\$105,797.78

*The above data is based on permit activity for the calendar year

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Colleen E. Fermon, Director of Public Health

The mission of the Public Health Department is to protect the public health and the environment, control disease and promote sanitary living conditions through the enforcement of State Sanitary Codes, State Environmental Codes and Board of Health Regulations. These state and local laws and regulations require Public Health Departments to perform many critical duties that include a wide range of public health control and prevention activities. We work in your community to protect the food supply, water supply, air and land. We promote sanitary living conditions in housing, enforce state lead poisoning and no smoking laws and control infectious disease. We inspect food establishments, pools, beaches, tanning facilities, recreational camps for children and septic system installations.

In 2015, as in past years, the Public Health Department also provided community health programs that keep people healthy and promote healthy behaviors. Our community health programs include:

Influenza Vaccination Clinics- This past season the clinic was open to individuals 19 years of age and older. A total of 96 people were vaccinated through our clinic.

Wellness Clinics- On the second Wednesday of each month the Public Health Nurse, Pamela Lara, runs monthly Wellness Clinics at Oak Hill Apartments from 9am-10 am and at 6 Caroline Avenue from 10am-11:30am. This program is offered free of charge to residents of all ages. Clinic assessments include blood pressure, heart rate and rhythm, weight, auscultation of lungs, medication review, psycho-social needs assessment, in addition to answering any health related questions you may have.

Dental Clinic- Our fourth dental clinic was run by Polished LLC this past May. Polish provided free dental screenings, cleanings, sealants and fluoride for children. Adults were able to receive screenings and cleanings for \$49.

Mosquito Control- The Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District (NEMMC) has thirty-two subscribing municipalities, including Ipswich. Their mosquito control and surveillance program runs from the middle of the spring until the beginning of the fall. NEMMC creates a Vector Management Plan (VMP) for the Mosquito Control District and a Best Management Practice Plan (BMP) for each of the municipalities within its District annually. District control efforts focus primarily on adult mosquito surveillance, virus testing and preemptive virus intervention strategies. The Mosquito Control Best Management Practice Plan for Ipswich is reviewed and approved by the Board of Health annually. Every year the main control measures in Ipswich's BMP include aerial salt marsh larviciding, catch basin treatments, inspections and adulticiding if West Nile Virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis is detected in mosquitos in Ipswich.

Sun Safety is a regional local public health project that was supported by a grant from the North Shore Community Health network. The North Shore Community Health network is an informal, volunteer network of health and social service providers from the following communities:

Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester, Lynn, Lynnfield, Marblehead, Nahant, Peabody, Rockport, Salem, Saugus, Swampscott, Topsfield, and Wenham. The goal of Sun Safety is reducing skin cancer rates in the region by educating people about the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation and offering ways for people to minimize their exposure to it. Starting with National Ultraviolet Safety month (July) and continuing through the rest of the summer, we provided Sun Safety brochures to our residents. In 2015, the Public Health Department also collaborated with Lahey Health to bring their Slip Slop Slap Program, which encourages sun safety for children, to Ipswich's Summer Camps; Summer Quest at the Crane Estate and Camp Takoma at the YMCA.

Emergency Preparedness- For more than a decade, the role of Public Health has included being a partner in emergency planning. The Public Health Department is responsible for developing emergency preparedness plans for emergency dispensing sites which will dispense vaccine or medication to the residents within its community in response to an infectious disease outbreak such as an influenza pandemic or a bioterrorism event.

In 2015, food trainings were offered; two for temporary food and one for farmers markets. The Ipswich Public Health Department wanted to help community organizations planning these events understand state food regulations and safe food handling. Temporary food events and farmers markets present special challenges since they may operate either indoors or outdoors and often have limited physical and sanitary facilities available. The trainings covered the applicable state regulations, food safety, the application process and the inspection process.

Ipswich Board of Health and Public Health Department

The Board of Health sets the health policy for the town which is carried out by the Public Health Department staff. The Ipswich Board of Health is comprised of three members appointed by the Town Manager for 3 year staggered terms. The Board of Health meets once a month, typically the first Monday of the month. For 2015, the Board members were Susan Hubbard, Chairperson, and members Dr. Spencer Amesbury and Margaret McDermott.

The Director of Public Health is appointed by the Town Manager. The Director of Public Health carries out the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Health. The Public Health Nurse responsibilities include infectious and communicable disease surveillance, investigation, reporting and control, case management for tuberculosis patients and their contacts, organizing an annual immunization clinic for influenza and monthly wellness clinics, providing health education and promoting disease prevention programs. The Public Health Nurse also participates in the Town Employee Health Fair by offering blood pressure screenings and health promotion information on hypertension, stroke, tick borne illnesses, sun safety, prostate health, proper sharp disposal and emergency preparedness.

Other Public Health Department Functions:

Septic Betterment Program - The proceeds of a loan from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection are being utilized to help homeowners comply with Title 5, 310 CMR 15.000 of the State Environmental Code by providing financial assistance to homeowners to upgrade or repair their septic system.

Ipswich homeowners with failed septic systems are able to apply for a Betterment Loan under the Town's Septic Management Betterment Program. By the end of 2015, more than \$456,000 had been approved in loans to homeowners. The Director of Public Health serves as the Septic Betterment Program Coordinator.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA) - The Director of Public Health also serves as the ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator oversees the town's efforts to comply with the American with Disabilities Act and handle disability based discrimination complaints. Since January 26, 1992, municipal governments must provide equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in their programs, activities, and services.

Weights and Measures - The Sealer of Weights and Measures ensures the integrity of marketplace purchases of goods and commodities. All commercially used measuring and weighing devices, such as gasoline meters, scales, and scanners are annually tested and certified by the Sealer of Weights and Measures as mandated by state law. For Ipswich, this service is provided by the Massachusetts Division of Standards under a contract that is overseen by the Director of Public Health.

Health Inspections and Investigations

Bathing Beach Water Testing	85
Deep Hole Observations	90
Food Establishment Inspections	281
Housing Inspections	52
Lead Determinations	0
Motels	2
Nuisance, Health, and Environmental Complaints	24
Occupancy Inspections	23
Percolation Tests	48
Recreational Camps for Children	2
Septic System Inspections	155
Swimming Pool Inspections	12
Title 5 Inspection Reports	99
Total Health Inspections and Investigations	873

Sealer of Weights and Measures

Scales	89
Meters	69
Total	158

Licenses and Permit Issued

Food Service	65
Retail Food	36
Caterer	9
Temporary Food	58
Mobile Food	6
Frozen Deserts	3
Biological Haulers	1
Septic Haulers	32
Septic Installers	37
Septic System Inspectors	23
Swimming Pools	8
Recreational Camps	2
Motels	2
Bottling	1
Tobacco	12
Funeral Directors	2
Disposal System Construction	70
Well Permits	10
Beaches	6
Beaver	4
Trench Permits	71
Recombinant DNA registrations	2
Pasteurization of Milk	1
Outdoor Hydronic Heaters	0
Licenses and Permit Issued	461

Plan Review

Building Plan Review	329
Food Plan Review	24
HACCP Plan Review	0
Septic As-Built Review	44
Septic Plan Review	155
Well Plan Review	10
Total Plan Reviews	562

Community Health Programs

Seasonal Influenza Immunizations	96
Wellness Clinics	24
Triad Meetings	12
Dental Screenings	16
Total Community Health Programs	148

Disease Surveillance

Animal Bites	13
Babesiosis	3
Campylobacter	4
Ehrlichiosis	1
Hepatitis B	1
Hepatitis C	15
Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	3
Influenza	31
Invasive Group B Streptococcus	2
Lyme	70
Measles contacts	4
Pertussis	1
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	3
Rubella	1
Salmonella	6
Shiga Toxin	1
Shigellosis	1
Viral Meningitis	1
Total Disease Surveillance	161

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Glenn C. Gibbs, Director

The Department of Planning & Development guides the development and conservation of land in Ipswich via the regulatory process, the preparation and implementation of long-range plans, and by providing support and guidance to the following boards and commissions: Planning, Design Review, and Affordable Housing Trust Fund Boards; Conservation, Historical, Agricultural, and Architectural Preservation District Commissions; Housing Partnership; Open Space Committee; Zoning Board of Appeals; Board of Selectmen, and various ad hoc committees. In addition to the regulatory support, the Department undertook a number of initiatives in 2015, including:

- Under the guidance of the Planning & Development Director, pursued several economic development initiatives, including: (1) created an Economic Development Strategy to guide the department's economic development efforts for the next three years; (2) along with the Town Manager, established an Economic Development Advocacy Group to advise, facilitate, and advocate for economic development initiatives; (3) helped secure a \$40,500 appropriation by Annual Town Meeting to install first phase of wayfinding signs; then prepared scope of services and worked with the designer on the sign specifications, in preparation for putting the project out to bid; (4) in conjunction with the Public Art Review Committee, considered location options for a proposed sculpture to honor the Town's artistic community, as well as a temporary summer art installation, and successfully guided both proposals through the approval process.
- Drafted five zoning articles for special town meeting, four of which were approved (see Planning Board report for more information).
- Under direction of the Open Space Administrator, with assistance from the MassLIFT AmeriCorps Land Steward, Cemetery & Parks, and volunteers, undertook numerous open space stewardship initiatives, including: coordinated volunteer reconstruction of bridge crossing at Bull Brook reservoir, a major trail link to the watershed trail network and the Bay Circuit Trail; supervised high school students in maintaining and improving trails and developing outreach materials about hazards of dog waste; secured permanent access easement to Dow Brook Conservation Area; collaborated with other town staff to reduce dog waste on Town property, including installation of ten dog waste stations; for second consecutive year, hosted Ipswich Estuary Kayak & Open Space Walk at annual Trails & Sails Event and received People's Choice Award; worked with Open Space Committee and Recreation & Culture Department to create outreach materials for winter outdoor activities and to encourage people to explore Town open space; produced virtual tour video of Nichols Field for airing on local cable access and YouTube; coordinated Town acceptance of conservation restriction over Linebrook Road property to allow trail link to the abutting Willowdale State Forest; and co-hosted event marking the opening of public road and river access at 149 County Road.

Ethan Parsons joined the Planning & Development Department in February as its senior planner, after having worked several years as a senior planner/assistant director for the Town of Wellesley. Upon his arrival, he assumed the responsibility for staffing the Planning and Design Review Boards, Historical and Architectural Preservation District Commissions, and for overseeing the Housing Partnership and Affordable Housing Trust Fund. With this change, the Planning Director increased his focus on the economic development responsibilities of the Department. At year's end, Michelle Valliancourt of Ipswich was hired as the Town's new Open Space Program Manager, with her service to begin in January of 2016.

PLANNING BOARD

Heidi Paek, Chair

The Planning Board ("Board") leads long-term planning efforts for the town, which include preparing plans for the use of land and the allocation of resources. The Board implements planning activities by preparing zoning regulations for consideration by town meeting and by

suggesting policies to other boards and departments. The Board also regulates much of the town's land development activity. For example, the Board reviews many commercial and industrial projects under site plan review; many uses, such as multi-family residential and large commercial developments under special permit review; scenic road alterations; and subdivisions. Assisting the Board in these efforts in 2015 was Senior Planner Ethan Parsons.

The Board's principal long-range planning activity in 2015 was the initiation and recommendation of zoning amendments for the special town meeting. The Board proposed five articles to special town meeting. Special town meeting adopted Board-sponsored articles that amended the Definitions and Table of Use Regulations pertaining to lodging, amendments to the provisions for solar energy collection apparatuses and other miscellaneous amendments. A Task Force created by the Board and an intern assisted tremendously with the development of the proposed solar energy collection apparatus amendments.

The Board reviewed and approved a variety of new projects in 2015 and monitored previously approved projects for compliance with its decisions. Projects approved by the Board include the expansion of the YMCA at 110 County Road, a new hardware store at the adjacent 114 County Road, conversion of several accessory structures into dwelling units, and new multifamily dwellings.

	Special Permit	Site Plan Review only	Approval Not Required Plans	Scenic Roads	Subdivisions
New applications received	11*	3	5	2	2
Decisions rendered (including applications made during prior years)	9*	5	5	2	1

*Some of the special permit applications/approvals also included site plan review.

During 2015 Heidi Paek served as Chair, Jay Stanbury as Vice-Chair, and Kathleen Milano, Cathy Chadwick and Keith Anderson as regular members. Carolyn Britt served as the associate member.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Jennifer Hughes, Chair

The Conservation Commission is comprised of seven members: Jennifer Hughes (Chair), Sissy ffolliott (Vice-Chair), David Standley, Brian O'Neill, William McDavitt, Catherine Carney-Feldman and Michele Hunton, as well as one Associate Member, Raymond Putnam. Associate Member Ray Putnam stepped down in November. His salient input and positive attitude will be missed.

The Commission engages in a variety of activities on behalf of the town, including land conservation and preservation. Most of its time, however, is devoted to its formal role as the local environmental regulatory board responsible for implementing the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Ipswich Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The Conservation Office supports the Commission's regulatory mandates, and is comprised of full-time Conservation Agent Alicia Geilen, part-time Conservation and Planning Assistant Gail Surpitski, Minutes Secretary Cathy Miaskiewicz, and former Interim Agent Bill Decie, who was hired in July as the part-time Conservation Field Inspector.

Each year the Commission acts upon a wide range of official filings and requests. To do so, Commission members in 2015 attended 23 scheduled evening meetings and visited numerous projects. Staff assistance included responding to queries and realtor requests on a daily basis, researching potential violations, visiting project sites to ascertain need for jurisdictional filings, and inspecting sites before hearings and during project activities.

The following table compares 2015 activities with the previous five calendar years to indicate trends, and includes a rolling 6-year average for each category.

Activities in 2015 of particular note were:

- The Commission and the Agent invested extraordinary time and effort on a proposed residential development at 27 Water Street. Submitted in April, the project proposed work in the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Riverfront to Ipswich River, Land Under Ocean, Tidal Flats/Tidal Beach/Land Containing Shellfish, Coastal Bank, Salt Marsh, and Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The complex proposal required careful review of reports relative to storm water management, waste site clean-up, and regulatory compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act. Its review took 13 meetings, and extended into February of 2016.
- With assistance from senior volunteers Phyllis Marshall and Grace Beaulieu, completed data entry in electronic database for all Notices of Intent and Requests for Determinations of Applicability submitted between 1977 and 2015.
- The Agent and Field Inspector continued working with dozens of applicants on the recording of OOCs and completion of COCs, particularly with a handful of organizations that had multiple open OOCs.
- Agent gave a talk in April about "Bats and White Nose Syndrome" as part of the Commission's Speakers Series.
- Commission and staff expanded and clarified educational and related non-regulatory functions, including the creation of several guidance documents and the fabrication of "No-Disturbance Zone" signs, which the Town has been selling for much less than they would otherwise cost, as a service to the public.

ConCom Activity	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Avg.
Citizen Queries (at ConCom meetings)					11	16	14
Orders of Conditions Issued	41	27	33	31	29	26	31
Certificates of Compliance Issued	16	24	27	11	39	37	26
Extension Permits Issued	3	4	6	0	2	4	3
Orders of Resource Area Delineation Issued	1	5	1	0	2	1	2
Determinations of Applicability Issued	23	35	33	27	32	53 (50 negative)	34
Enforcement Actions Initiated	6	9	16	7	17	38	16
Formal Amendments Issued					3	3	3
Minor Modifications Issued					12	11	11
Emergency Certifications Issued					1	2	1
Enforcement Orders Lifted					8	21	15
Building Permit Applications Reviewed					180	234	207
Chicken Coop Permit Applications Reviewed					13	1	7
Totals	101	120	148	107	121 349 (w/ '14')	159 447 (w/ '14')	126 398 (14'-15')

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

John Fiske, Chair

The Ipswich Historical Commission (IHC) had a busy and productive 2015.

The IHC was pleased to learn that the American Society of Civil Engineers planned to designate the Choate Bridge as a National Historical Civil Engineering Landmark. The IHC cooperated with the ASCE in designating May 16 “Choate Bridge Day.” The celebrations included the formal dedication of the bridge together with activities for the children and adults. The National Chair of the ASCE, State Representative Brad Hill, members of the Board of Selectmen and members of the IHC all spoke publicly of the national importance and history of the Choate Bridge.

The IHC has been centrally involved in a large scale, long term project to restore the Old North Burial Ground on High Street. All the preliminary studies have been completed and the project is set to enter its next stage.

The IHC awarded the Mary Conley Award for excellence in historic preservation for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015. Recipients were: for 2013, Lynda Rieman, Caleb Kimball House, c. 1715, 106 High Street; for 2014, Jacob and Amy Borgman, the Asa Stone Barn, 1839, 24 Northgate Road; and for 2015, Will Thompson and Meghann Plumlee, Baker-Newman House, c. 1725, 14 East Street.

The Town Historian, in conjunction with the IHC, hosts two cross-linked websites. In 2015 the Historical Commission site had over 26 thousand visits, with nearly 55,000 page views; the historical site Stories from Ipswich had nearly 59 thousand visits, with over 200 thousand views. The two sites have a combined 527 pages and 455 posts, almost 1000 total, which together makes them one of the largest and most visited historical resources in New England.

The IHC adopted the *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.

The IHC received two demolition requests in 2015. It imposed a Demolition Delay upon 64 East Street, which it subsequently lifted when the owners met the conditions that the IHC had set. The IHC decided not to impose a Demolition Delay on 15 Pleasant Street, and cooperated with the owners in suggesting historically appropriate detailing for the renewal.

The IHC consulted with the following town bodies: the Public Art Review Committee, regarding the public sculpture “High Spirits”; the Dam Removal Feasibility Study, regarding the possible removal of the EBSCO dam; the Town Manager, regarding future road works on High Street; and the Wayfinding Sign taskforce, regarding signs directing visitors to historic sites.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Charles Allen, Chair

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND BOARD

Jim Warner, Chair

The mission of the Housing Partnership is to promote, preserve, and create affordable housing in a manner consistent with the town’s long-term planning documents. The Partnership meets monthly with the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board, which administers the monies paid into the Fund for affordable housing purposes. As prescribed by its articles of incorporation, two of the Trust Fund Board members are also members of the Partnership.

With the support of Affordable Housing Coordinator Terry Anderson, the activities of the Partnership and the Trust Fund Board in 2015 included:

- Continued operating the Home Rehabilitation Loan Program, which was established four years ago to assist low and moderate-income homeowners with home repairs. In 2015 the program funded two rehab projects, one of which involved the installation of a new

heating/air condition system, the other which will make bathroom and heating repairs. Both homeowners are senior citizens.

- Worked with owners of the Turner Hill Great Estates Preservation Development and the Planning Board to create six apartments affordable to tenants with incomes at or below 60% of the Regional Median Income, and one single-family house for a household earning no more than 100% of median income. Each of the dwelling units is located within the Great Estate Development.
- Completed the first phase of a public relations campaign that highlights the achievements of the Partnership and Trust Fund. End products included a full-color brochure sent to every household in town; a logo; a slogan; brand standards and guidelines; and yard signs for projects being funded by the Town.
- Improved the housing program section of the Town website, including information about the First-time Buyers and Rehab Loan Programs, as well as links to other websites with helpful information for buyers, owners, and tenants.
- Reviewed inclusionary zoning regulations and payment-in-lieu fees and discussed potential modifications.

The Trust Fund Board continues to exercise prudence in awarding loans and in managing the Trust's funds. Still, expenditures have exceeded revenues for several consecutive years, leaving a year-end balance in the fund of less than \$50,000. Fortunately, the Trust Fund Board is anticipating receiving funds from multiple revenue sources beginning later this year and for the next couple of years.

Long-time member Michael Schaaf stepped down from the Housing Partnership after many years of valuable service. We thank him for his strong contributions on behalf of the Partnership.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Carolyn Britt and Wayne Castonguay, Co-Chairs

Sixteen years ago the Town authorized a \$10 million Open Space Bond for the protection of land for open space, water supply protection, and recreation. In 2011, the Town voted to increase the bond authorization by \$5 million, and to allow the extra funds to be used to develop athletic fields on land purchased with Bond funds.

The Open Space Committee's (OSC) mission is to preserve land that meets important priorities of the town, with guidance from the Town's Open Space & Recreation Plan and the assessment of individual parcels on the Open Space Bond parcel list. The OSC responds quickly to potential projects, and advises the Selectmen on potential acquisitions. As well, the OSC works closely with the Athletic Field Committee to identify properties with potential for conversion to active recreational use. It supported the successful effort to obtain town meeting approval for developing an artificial turf field at the high school. The new field will allow two and one-half times more playing time for sports activities than the natural turf field.

After several years of a quiet real estate market, activity exploded in 2015. Several of the Town's high priority parcels came on the market, including one of the most significant unprotected coastal parcels left in New England. The OSC has been taking an active role in advising the Selectmen on these acquisition opportunities, and working with regional, and state and federal agencies to identify possible funding sources. Acting on these opportunities has been a challenge due to the absence of an Open Space Program Manager, but the hiring of Michelle Vaillancourt in December to fill that position will greatly benefit the Committee's efforts in 2016.

Highlights for 2015 include:

- Thanks to generous private donations, Essex County Greenbelt purchased a 34-acre parcel and established the 34-acre Echo Reservation on outer Linebrook Road. The Town will be placing a conservation restriction on the parcel to ensure its permanent protection.
- The OSC increased public awareness of the program by manning an informational table at the Farmer's Market and Town election, and by developing, in conjunction with staff, an open space brochure that is distributed to visitors and at town events.

The OSC added two members in 2015, Casey Wright and Katie Hone. OSC co-chair Carolyn Britt retired from the committee following two decades of tireless work on behalf of the Open Space Program. She remains an associate member.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Jay Stanbury, Chairman

The mission of the Agricultural Commission ("Commission") is to support the Town's agricultural community and resources by encouraging and/or participating in the pursuit of sustainable agriculture and agriculturally-based economic development opportunities, representing the farming community in town government as well as the larger community, and acting as a facilitator, advocate, and educator on farming issues.

Besides marking the 10th anniversary of its establishment by Town Meeting, the Commission in 2015 met ten times, and undertook the following activities:

- Expanded its public outreach effort by: (1) partnering with the Open Space Committee on an informational booth at the Farmers' Market and at the May Town Election; (2) promoting agriculture at the Recreation and Culture Department's Evergreen event in December; (3) created and hung a banner with the Commission's logo at outreach events, using a donation from the Echo Foundation; (4) distributed bookmarks, Right to Farm Bylaw information, and an updated brochure entitled "Living in a Farm Community," published by the Commission in 2015; (5) sold tote bags and made T-Shirts for volunteers that sported the new logo. Proceeds from tote bag sales will be used to support future outreach events.
- Endeavored to improve coordination with other Town boards, in part by meeting with the Open Space Committee to discuss shared goals and objectives.
- Expanded list of "Friends of Farmers," who are individuals interested in supporting agriculture in Ipswich.

- Continued to support various agricultural-related efforts, such as the school garden at the Ipswich High School, the Three Sisters Garden Project, and the Farmer's Market, to which the Commission allocated \$1,000 from its annual budget to fund winter hours for the Farmers Market Manager. The Commission also met with the Market Manager several times to discuss issues relative to its market operation.
- Urged the Selectmen to participate in a conservation effort to protect the Belosselsky property adjacent to Castle Hill; specifically, the 60+ acres of prime agricultural soils.
- Prepared a work plan based on the recommendations of the 2009 Ipswich Agricultural Report.
- Supported the Farm to School initiative by meeting with group leader Nicole Whitten, and assigning one of the Commission members as liaison to the group.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Robert Gambale, Chairman

Benjamin Fierro III, Vice-Chairman

The Zoning Board of Appeals (“ZBA”) is a five member adjudicatory board with two associates; all are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Full members serve for five years; associate members are appointed to one-year terms.

As provided under MGL Chapter 40A and the Ipswich Zoning Bylaw, the ZBA acts on all matters within its jurisdiction, which are special permit applications for non-conforming uses and structures; appeals from decisions of the Building Inspector; petitions for variances from the Zoning Bylaw; and applications under the Comprehensive Permit Statute (MGL c.40B).

In 2015 the ZBA heard: three variance petitions, granting two and denying the other; 13 special permit applications, approving 11, including two for an accessory apartment; three appeals of Building Inspector’s decisions, upholding the decision in each instance; and one request to modify a previously approved Comprehensive Permit, which it granted.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Ken Savoie, Chairman

The Design Review Board (“DRB”) is a seven member board charged with preserving and enhancing the Town’s cultural, economic and historical resources by providing advisory design reviews of certain land uses, such as community facilities, commercial or industrial buildings which require site plan review or special permit approval, and multi-family developments.

During 2015 the Design Review Board reviewed and made recommendations to the Planning Board on several projects, which included a hardware store at 114 County Road, a proposed multifamily dwelling at 27 Water Street, an expansion of the YMCA at 110 County Road, and a commercial riding arena at 9 Nags Head Road.

The following members served during 2015: Ken Savoie, Mitchell Lowe, Jeffrey Anderson, Laura Gresh, Robert Weatherall, Rue Sherwood, Linda Riley (joined), and Kristina Brendel (resigned). The DRB thanks Kristina for her strong contributions to the Board and service to the Town

ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION

Chris Morse, Chairman

Mitchell Lowe, Vice-Chairman

The newly-formed Architectural Preservation District Commission (APDC) had a productive beginning. Its initial meeting was in August, and it has met several times since, mostly to develop design guidelines and rules and regulations, as required by the Architectural Preservation District (APD) General Bylaw. By year's-end with the assistance of planning staff, the APDC was close to completing the design review standards, which include historical accounts of each architectural period found within the APD.

Two proposals came before the APDC for review in 2015:

84 High Street: In September the APDC reviewed proposed renovations to a c. 1860 house, which entailed adding a dormer to accommodate needed bedroom space. The APDC, in its advisory recommendation, suggested a minor change to fenestration which the owner incorporated into the final design. In December, the owners presented a proposal to alter an existing barn on the property; it was under review at year's end.

6-8 North Main Street: In October the APDC reviewed proposed renovations to an existing carriage house on the property of the Ebenezer Stanwood House (c. 1747). The proposal entailed moving the structure 20 feet from its current location, installing a new foundation, extending the rear of the structure, and adding dormers. The proposal was determined to be a "significant alteration", requiring a public hearing. After the owner agreed to incorporate suggestions made by the APDC regarding dormer heights and fenestration, the APDC issued a Certificate to Alter.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Kerri Bates, Recreation Director

Ipswich ReCreation & Culture celebrates community with annual events, both new and old that take place in landscapes that assure us we are "home."

Summer Solstice Labyrinth marks the official start of summer on Crane Beach!

Taking the show on the road we celebrate Independence Day with our Fourth of July Parade! Marching along historic High Street, down scenic Water Street, we gather on the steps of Town Hall to hear claim "Ipswich: The Birthplace of American Independence!" Together we stand, in red, white, and blue.

Take sight of the magnificent Choate Bridge glowing after dark from the Ipswich Riverwalk. Dancing under the stars we become one with the hustle and bustle of the Ipswich History Mural...Its Downtown Tuesdays!

Ipswich Farmers Market brings nourishment to the Common. Gathering provisions in the company of neighbors and friends, in the cool green grass of the historic Hall Haskell House,

enjoy music, shade, the sounds of children at play and locally sourced deliciousness. Take a deep breath; life is good.

Project presents Groovy Movie Mondays a fun, family film series. Sit back, relax and enjoy outdoor screenings behind Town Hall in the good company of neighbors & friends. (In partnership with the Ipswich Police Community Resource Outreach Unit.)

Long lazy beach days, time in the garden, sculpture on the greens, fun on the river, walks in the woods, picnics in the parks, boat rides and concerts here there and everywhere! Before we know it we are watching the shooting stars of August and even the Foam Frolic is a memory.

September brings return to routine from which Ipswich Arts & Illumination offers reprieve. Bon fires ablaze, we bid “so long” to summer’s splendor.

Oh, Autumn! The colors, the smells! We remember the comforts of home and celebrate Thanksgiving, highlighting history with “Ipswich is First...Period.” An homage to harvest, hearth, and home.

Ipswich Evergreen rounds out the annum with wreath making, music and merriment on the common.

We welcome the New Year with the Winter Labyrinth Walk, a mindful practice, calling to mind all that we share as a community and have to be grateful for!

Come winter we dance indoors at the Town Hall Gym: Noon Dance every Friday and once a month at the Ipswich Community Contra Dances a family friendly affair! “Egrets Only”

Collaboration is the name of the game at Ipswich ReCreation & Culture.

In partnership with the Birth to Three Family Center, Ipswich Public Schools, and the Ipswich Family YMCA we support after-school enrichment programming with A.C.E., D.E.E.P., Tiger Den and Fit Crew. A series of feature film screenings are coordinated in collaboration with a variety of IHS teams and clubs serving both as fun and fundraisers.

Finally, the Ipswich Visitor Center, warmly welcoming the wider world to enjoy with us the good life Ipswich has to offer. Community ReCreation is fun, for sure, but it is so much more. It is the means by which we weave social networks, forge business partnerships, share ideas and inspire one another! Stay Tuned: “Like” Ipswich ReCreaion & Culture and Ipswich Visitor Center on Facebook. Subscribe to the Ipswich Community Events Calendar, under the “Events” tab on the towns award winning website at www.ipswichma.gov, While there, sign up for R&C “News Flashes” under the “Notify Me” tab.



COUNCIL ON AGING

Sheila Taylor, Executive Director

A wide variety of programs for senior citizens of Ipswich were provided under the umbrella of Council on Aging Services.

The Senior Center operated weekdays, 8:00-4:00, at the Town Hall. Three part-time receptionists welcomed guests, answered the phone, and assisted with the daily operation of the center. Regular programs included a book discussion group, bridge and card groups, knitting and quilting groups, art classes, inter-generational program, various dining programs, and a single friends group. Health-related programs included monthly health screenings, weekly blood pressure clinics, nutrition programs, polarity, reiki, hearing clinics, and podiatry clinics. Exercise and fitness programs included yoga, tai chi, exercise, line dancing, swimming, ping pong, golf, basketball, and pickleball. The Travel Club embarked on international trips, overnight national trips, and day trips to various locations throughout the year.

Special offerings included presentations on elder care issues, Lifelong Learners Group, driver safety programs, a summer picnic, holiday parties, computer classes, painting and drawing classes, speakers on a variety of health, financial and legal issues, social gatherings for special observances and classes for a wide range of interests. A monthly newsletter written by the Director reached over 3600 elders through support of local advertisers and a grant for postage. Mr. & Mrs. Fix-it programs help seniors with minor repairs and light alterations. A Caregivers' Support Group helped those dealing with frail elders. The Director continued to coordinate the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program which employs fifteen seniors. A seven-member TRIAD Council consisting of local police, fire, community service personnel and seniors offered safety awareness programs geared towards elders within our community. Special topics this year included emergency preparedness, CPR and First Aid.

A handicapped accessible, 14-passenger van provided local transportation to Ipswich seniors. Ipswich senior citizens were provided approximately 5,500 one-way rides on the COA van, logging over 18,000 miles of service. The Friends group continued to raise funds and support

projects that fell outside of the COA budget. The Friends also contributed to a Christmas party for 190 seniors held in the gymnasium of the Town Hall. Grants from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Coburn Charitable Society provided funding toward newsletter postage, volunteer mileage reimbursement and a volunteer recognition luncheon. Project Warm Home, a COA fuel assistance program funded entirely by private donations, provided fuel assistance to 19 senior households.

The Outreach program enlisted a corps of 25 volunteers who provided 1,490 hours of volunteer service to local elders. This program also provided volunteers who drove senior citizens 15,252 miles to out-of-town medical appointments. Other services of the outreach program included social visits, friendly phone calls, help with chores, and guidance in making personal, medical, housing and financial decisions. Other assistance programs included Money Management and Bill Paying for elders, healthy pet care, free income tax preparation provided by trained AARP volunteers and a SHINE counselor who provides information and guidance regarding health insurance information. A 7-member board council met monthly to review programs and operations and plan additional offerings.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES
EASTERN ESSEX DISTRICT

Karen F. Tyler, District Director

This department is charged under Chapter 115 Massachusetts General Laws with providing services to veterans, their survivors and dependents. Principal workload under state law includes the administration of aid to veterans and dependents. Communities fund this program, which are subsequently 75% reimbursed the following fiscal year by the Commonwealth. This is a need based program and the department is required to conduct periodic comprehensive reviews of the cases to insure no substantive facts have changed, while working with the veteran to identify alternative or long-term solutions to individual circumstances. Under state law the department also assists qualified veterans to obtain bonuses, and qualified veterans, widows and parents to obtain state annuities, property tax abatements, and other benefits.

The Veterans' Services program also mandates extensive interaction within the federal community, principally with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) assists veterans and their dependents in filing for pensions, service connected injury/illness compensation, dependency indemnity compensation for survivors, VA healthcare enrollment, insurance claims, decedent claims, and many other issues. Federal benefits processed by this department are paid directly to those eligible to receive the assistance or entitlement. Additionally, the department interacts within the federal community to correct military records, obtain needed documentation and insure veterans/dependents receive awards and recognition to which entitled.

The Director and the Assistant to the Director advocate for veterans' on issues at the local, state and federal level, interact with elected and appointed officials on issues, and work with local organizations in serving the community. The department also provided information, assistance and guidance for citizens in determining their needs for Medical insurance.

This year a new Certification Exam was given by the State. The Veteran Service Officer took and passed the Certification Exam. Now that the VSO is certified, the Town will receive the full reimbursement from the State of 75%. The exam was the State's way of making sure that the caliber of VSOs was set to a high standard. If the VSO did not pass the exam, then there was a chance that the Town would be penalized and not receive the full reimbursement.

In the year 2015 there were many changes in personnel. In May of 2015 Ryan Lennon resigned as Director to take a Civil Service position with the State. Karen Tyler, an Army Veteran, accepted the position of Director in July. In October, Georgia Gadbois, retired after serving 30 years as the Assistant to the Director. Tracey Brown was hired as the new Assistant to the Director in December. Throughout all these changes, the District continues to serve the Veteran, spouses, widows, and dependents faithfully without interruption.

The Eastern Essex District is composed of the Towns of Essex, Georgetown, Hamilton, Ipswich, Newbury, Rowley, Wenham and West Newbury. A Board of Directors consisting of one selectman (or designee) from each town maintains oversight. Mr. Charles Surpitski represents the Town of Ipswich on the District Board of Directors

**UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
ELECTRIC DIVISION**

Donald H. Newell, Electric Light Manager

With the addition of catalysts and other environmental compliance modifications, the Power Plant continues to operate in the ISO NE (Independent System Operator of New England) Forward Capacity Market providing 9.2 Megawatts of generation capacity in the NEMA zone. Under the current program, the department is compensated for being available for dispatch bidding in the day ahead market. The operation of the plant under this arrangement is overseen by Jeffrey Turner, Assistant Power Plant Superintendent.

Annual kWh sales

2008 sales 108,020,523
2009 sales 106,296,811
2010 sales 110,748,080
2011 sales 111,777,696
2012 sales 109,352,016
2013 sales 110,883,614
2014 sales 111,087,798
2015 sales 112,171,817

Metering Upgrades

The Ipswich Utilities Department continues with the implementation of the AMI system (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) for both water and electric revenue meters throughout the town. These meters establish true two-way advanced metering infrastructure. The Mueller **Mi.Net** System fully automates the meter-reading-to-billing process for water and energy utilities, linking meters, distribution sensors and control devices in a single, highly efficient wireless mesh communication network which can provide better service through instantaneous & automatic notification of service interruptions.

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IMLD Green Power Initiatives

Wind Turbine I provides for approximately 3% of town's electricity needs.

Ipswich Municipal Light Department's GE 1.6 MW wind turbine located on Town Farm Road began commercial power production on May 18, 2011. It generated 3,605,399 kWh of energy during 2015.

Wind Turbine II provides approximately 4% of the town's electricity needs.

Wind II is a 2.0 MW unit manufactured by Hyundai. IMLD purchased 4,443,607 kWh during 2015.

Berkshire Wind provides approximately 3% of town's electricity needs.

This project began commercial operation on May 28, 2011, 10 days after Ipswich Wind I. Berkshire Wind is owned and operated by the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative, a non-profit entity that consists of 14 Massachusetts municipal utilities (Ipswich being one of the 14) and a related joint action agency, the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company. IMLD received 3,170,321 kWh in 2015

Large Scale Solar Project Initiatives

The Ipswich Municipal Light Department has evaluated large scale solar project proposals to fit within the four corners of our green power portfolio. To date we have not received a project that has gone forward but will continue to be vigilant in this endeavor.

Residential Solar Program

There are currently 65 small-scale solar PV systems operating in Ipswich with a total annual production in excess of 850,000 kWh.

WATER & WASTEWATER DIVISIONS

Vicki Halmen, Director

Total water pumping has remained stable at historic low levels due to responsible water use by our customers. The department actively promotes water conservation measures and continued the seasonal rate structure, which was started in 2003 to curb excessive residential summer water use.

Construction of the Jeffrey's Neck Road water main replacement project, approved at the 2011 Special Town Meeting, was successfully completed in 2015. The project was awarded a low interest loan through the Massachusetts DEP State Revolving Fund loan program. Improved system hydraulics and reliability to the Neck area resulted from this project.

The Department is committed to improving our aging infrastructure and will continue to improve the reliability of the water system with its next project, replacement of the water main on Linebrook Road between Washington Street and Pine Street. This will be done in conjunction with the road improvement project being planned by the Department of Public Works. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2016. The water main project was approved at the 2013 Special Town Meeting.

Ipswich Water Department 2015

New Domestic Services	9
New Hydrants Installed	0
Hydrants Repaired/Replaced	28
New Water Main Installed (ft)	0
Water Main Replaced (ft)	9,617
Total Length of Water Main (ft)	498,005
Metered Water Services	4711
Unmetered Water Services (Fire Lines)	118
Residential Water Use Gallons/Capita/Day	50

2015 Water Usage by Source (Million Gallons)

Reservoirs (Dow and Bull Brook)	209
Browns Well	31
Essex Road Well	37
Fellows Road Well	44
Mile Lane Well	26
Winthrop Wells	16
Total Water Usage	363

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Joseph Ciccotelli, Superintendent

2015 continued to be a year of upgrades, changes and challenges for the Department. After several years of planning and testing, we successfully completed necessary modifications to the Water Treatment Plant's (WTP) Chlorine Dioxide Generator pre-disinfection system.

The Water Department also continued to work closely with Mass DEP and our consulting engineer AECOM, in response to the 2013 Manganese Health Advisory. While manganese is an essential nutrient that is part of a healthy diet, it is also a contaminant at high levels. Two of Ipswich's six water sources have manganese levels of concern, Browns and Fellows Road Wells. A variable frequency drive has been installed at Browns Well to allow it to operate at a lower flow rate for improved control of manganese. The WTP staff also voluntarily monitors manganese levels at these sources daily while in operation and in the distribution system on a monthly basis. The sources operate in combination with the other four sources in order to ensure that our drinking water continues to meet all State and Federal regulations.

After nearly 20 years of compliance, the Town of Ipswich was unable to meet the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule during their 2014 sampling round. Since the violation, Ipswich has retained a consultant to analyze the situation. Working together, we have identified the cause of the violation and developed an action plan. With approval from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Ipswich implemented the corrective measures in 2015. Follow-up sampling will be conducted in 2016.

Each Water Treatment Plant granular activated carbon filter had media replaced in 2015. These two filters are the heart of the WTP; they are able to remove organic contaminants and provide a final polishing of the drinking water prior to its entrance into the distribution system. The carbon must be replaced on a regular basis for the filters to provide sufficient treatment.

As treatment enhancements continue at the WTP, more residuals (a sludge-like by-product of the water treatment process) are being generated. We have now established an annual program to remove residuals from on-site storage lagoons through a mechanical dewatering process provided by a regional contractor. Once dewatered, the thickened residuals are transported to the Town's composting facility at the end of Town Farm Road.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

John Parkhurst, Superintendent

2015 marks the first full year of plant operation since completion of a multi-million dollar plant upgrade. The new equipment and operational modifications have enhanced the treatment process and allows the Department to continue discharging high quality effluent to the receiving waters in accordance with our federal discharge permit. We continue working on further process modifications for improved nitrogen control during the spring seasons.

Design has begun on the development of a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system for the Wastewater Department. Implementation of a SCADA system will result in increased monitoring and control of all pumping systems and each component of the treatment process. This project is funded over a six year period FY15-FY20.

Treated Wastewater	281	Million Gallons
Septage Received and Treated	7.1	Million Gallons
Bio-Solids Processed	2,944	Cubic Yards
Violations	3	Monthly Ammonia Limit Exceedances

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MIS)

Greg Parachojuk, MIS Director

The IT department is charged with the ongoing mission to develop, enhance and support both the Town and Utilities computing and telecommunications infrastructure and, to provide the system and services necessary for all departments and users to fulfill their stated goals and objectives. IT has been specifically focused with the task to consolidate whenever possible and to reduce footprint, power, and maintenance costs.

Ongoing work is being done with GIS so both employees and citizens have the most up to date information for their project and planning purposes. A new and improved GIS web portal was released in 2015. It can be found by visiting, <http://www.axisgis.com/IpswichMA>

Our Town website has been completely remodeled featuring a consistent look and improved organization. Many options are available to provide citizens instant access to important topics and news of their choice. Please visit our website at <http://www.ipswichma.go>



**TOWN CLERK AND CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER
PAMELA Z. CARAKATSANE, CMMC/CMC**

POPULATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015– 13,256

VITAL RECORDS

	2013	2014	2015
Births	82	86	97
Deaths	101	109	114
Marriages	59	54	60

SHELLFISH LICENSES AND PERMITS

	2013	2014	2015
Resident Yearly	144	160	139
Resident Family	98	85	85
Resident Commercial	123	102	107
Student Commercial	0	4	0
Over 70 Commercial	9	9	7
Over 60 Recreational	51	43	18
Over 70 Recreational	n/a	n/a	1
Non-Resident Yearly	127	115	90
Non-Resident Daily	31	33	22
Eagle Hill Stickers	13	10	89
Total	596	561	558

DOG LICENSES

Registered Dogs	1,920
Registered Kennels	9

**TOWN MEETINGS
ELECTIONS &
VOTER REGISTRATIONS**

I. The Board of Registrars

Peter Ross
Robert M. Stone
Katherine Eliopoulos, Chairwoman
Pamela Z. Carakatsane, CMMC/CMC

II. Town Meetings:

May 12, 2015 Annual Town Meeting

- Six hundred eighty five voters attended.
- The Warrant consisted of twenty nine articles

October 27, 2015 Special Town Meeting

- Two hundred twenty one registered voters attended.
- The Warrant consisted of fifteen articles.

III. Elections:

May 19, 2015 Annual Town Election

Votes Cast:	4,722
Number of Registered Voters:	10,161
Turnout:	46.96%

REGISTERED VOTER STATISTICS

Number of Registered Voters as of December 31, 2015 – 10,069

Number of Residents Enrolled in a Party or as Unenrolled

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4	Total
Democrat	673	639	470	549	2,331
Republican	334	366	447	354	1,501
Green-Rainbow	0	4	2	1	7
United Independent Party	16	13	15	11	55
Unenrolled	1,463	1,713	1,558	1,623	6,357
Total	2,486	2,735	2,492	2,538	10,251

Number of Residents Enrolled in Political Designations

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4	Total
Green Party USA	0	0	1	0	1
Libertarian	3	0	2	0	5
We the People	0	0	1	0	1
MA Independent Party	1	0	1	1	3
American Independent	1	2	2	0	5
Inter 3 rd Party	0	0	1	3	4
Total	5	2	8	4	19

Thank you to my Assistant, Kathy Marini; Office Volunteer, Janet Trask; the Board of Registrars; Marlene Shannon, Pat Flanagan and Pat Morley who assisted this office through the Senior Work Program; the Constables, Wardens, Clerks, Checkers, Provisional Ballot and Tally persons; the Ipswich Police Department; the staff of the Cemetery Department; the Facilities Department; the YMCA staff; and to the staff at the High School/Middle School who help set up for Town Meeting. Also, Andrew Agapow, Ronald Graves, Robert Stone, Phil Grenier, and Peter Pappas who spend many hours setting up the night before each election and dismantling the day of the election. They all have helped to make each Election and Town Meeting a success.

IPSWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Patty DiTullio, Director

2015 was a year of transition at the library, with significant changes in both staffing and services. Victor Dyer retired as Library Director in January 2015, after 15 years of service to the community, and new Director Patty DiTullio stepped into the position in February. The library has also undergone some major changes to services and library spaces over the last year.

2015 Ipswich Public Library - By the Numbers

Annual Visits to the Library	106,354
Ipswich Residents with Active Library Cards	8,200
Annual program attendance	7669
Books, Audiobooks, Music CDs and DVDs Borrowed	158,749
Number of Items sent/borrowed for Patrons through Delivery	48,245
Number of Sessions on the Public Computers	12,792
Hours Logged by Volunteers	1912

Improvements to Services and Spaces

Over the course of the year, the library has been assessing how to balance collections and spaces in order to meet the widest variety of patrons' needs. We have weeded dated and long unused books to make room for new spaces: more quiet study space, more areas dedicated to browsing, and a new, expanded teen area. Other collections have been relocated in order to allow for expansion, such as very popular formats like large print books and audiobooks. We've made changes to the way certain collections are shelved to make it easier for patrons to browse and find what they're looking for, such as filing music CDs by artist name, and separating DVDs into TV series and feature films.

Lots of improvements to public computing services were made in 2015. We worked with Town IT to rebuild our patron PCs with more streamlined public workstation software, protecting computers and automatically running updates overnight for better staff efficiency. Patrons may also now use flash

drives at all workstations, which had been a common request. All public computers are now equipped with new headphones so that patrons may use them for webinars and other trainings. We also offer inexpensive ear buds for sale, for those who do not wish to use shared headphones.

A new meeting room policy was approved by Board of Trustees that maximizes use of library spaces by the community. In 2015, these spaces were used over 200 times in addition to regular library programs. In conjunction with this policy, we introduced an online scheduling system, which simplifies the room reservation process for both in-house programs and outside organizations, and avoids conflicts.

New marketing efforts were introduced to better inform the community about library services. We offer a weekly New Materials Update on our website ("Wowbrary"), and a monthly email newsletter (Constant Contact). The library's Facebook activity has increased tremendously as well, sharing information about upcoming events and new products and services.

Internally, we've been making some updates as well. We overhauled our phone system to improve both staff workflow and customer service. We also implemented online staff scheduling software for better communication among staff and increased efficiency in payroll processing.

Programs

Over 7,000 people attended children's programs at the library over the course of the year, ranging from baby programs (Mother Goose on the Loose) to family programs for all ages (large holiday events and performances, bingo, crafts, movie nights, a photography workshop and photography contest, sing-a-longs, and a Lego program). Our annual Vehicle Day in July was a huge success, with an estimated 350 participants and 270 hot dogs served to the public by the Trustees and the Friends Group. This year the Children's Room Staff debuted a week-long summer camp with 30 participants (see ipswichbookcamp.wordpress.com). The camp went so well we are reprising it in 2016.

We also offered a variety of programs for adults. Over 100 people read *The Art Forger*, by Barbara Shapiro, which was our 2015 "Ipswich Reads...One Book" selection, and 232 people attended discussions and other programs related to the event. Our Massachusetts Authors Series continued in September with reporter Ted Reinstein visiting in May, and Linda Barnes, author of the popular Carlotta Carlyle mystery series, visiting in November.

We introduced a new musical concert series for adults, kicking off with local group "Labor in Vain" in October. These concerts will take place 2 to 3 times a year, going forward.

We held our first ever Local Author Fair in November, featuring 18 authors who greeted the public, and sold and signed books. The event was attended by over 200 people, and we plan to make it an annual event.



Reference/Teen Librarian Katy Wuerker introduced many new programs for teens in 2015, including a monthly book discussion group for High School students, a “book-to-movie” discussion group, holiday cupcake decorating, a Harry Potter-themed mystery night, and Doctor Who-themed event with many related games and activities (and a life-sized TARDIS! – pictured here). She also formed an advisory committee of teens, who meet to discuss and help plan future programs.



Donations and Support

The library would like to thank a variety of groups and individuals for their assistance and financial support. The Board of Library Trustees and the Friends of the Ipswich Library support many needs that are not funded in our town budget, such as IT equipment, museum passes, online resources, guest speakers and programs, and supplies and refreshments. Both groups also generously give their time with special events, such as book sales and receptions.

The Rotary Club of Ipswich generously funded several initiatives in our children’s department. Umesh Bhuju of Zumi’s provided prizes for summer reading participants. We also received a \$500 Exxon-Mobil grant through volunteer Phillip Goss. Last, we receive numerous memorial donations annually that help us enhance our collections.

Finally, special thanks to the library staff, who make it all possible.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. William I. Hart, Superintendent

Ipswich Public School Department is effectively using resources to support students through an everyday engagement with rigorous powerful learning. In every school in the district, we have the resources needed to create educational experiences that carry well beyond students’ time inside classroom walls. Resources such as small class sizes, support for writing and aligning rich curriculum, a focus on the habits needed to become successful adults, technology at our fingertips and groups of teachers regularly engaged in impactful professional development. Doyon and Winthrop, Middle School and High School have the support needed to move our students toward a more successful future.

Thanks to the override, our educational vision is coming to fruition. As a result of the Ipswich community’s generosity and commitment to education, we now have the tools we need to do what we know we can: to give Ipswich Public School students a world-class 21st Century education.

This year we have seen innovations abound. Whether it be second graders engaged in project-based learning, seventh graders diving into content with “Subject Intensive Experiences,” or high school students creating the innovations needed for a sustainable environment, there is no doubt that Ipswich is a place where creativity, rigor and perseverance are prized. Our teachers and administrators are now able to engage in the kinds of rich learning vital to our students’ high achievement. Our teachers regularly meet together to problem-solve, to write and revise curriculum and to look at data. We continue to plan the STEAM work that is the perfect match to the Ipswich community’s ideals and resources. Our district office staff are able to support alignment of these resources and tools. In short, all of us at Ipswich Public Schools have realized a dream through the support of the override, and we thank you.

Thinking forward, much work remains. However, as a result of a successful Override, this work is attainable and exciting. As a district, Ipswich Public Schools welcomes the task of writing and aligning rigorous, 21st Century curriculum. We are dedicated to supporting all students to achieve what we know they are capable to achieving. Ipswich Public Schools staff dream about continuing to create the supports, resources and tools that will allow all our students to reach their full potentials. The next generation of big-thinkers, problem-solvers and philanthropists are the kindergarteners dancing at Winthrop and the third graders writing their stories at Doyon. The leaders of sustainability and creators of social enterprises are busy building robots at the middle school and analyzing poetry at the high school. Our schools are what support this work, and all of us in Ipswich Public Schools continue to “dream big” for our students. We thank you for the continued means of realizing these dreams.

IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL

David Dalton, Principal



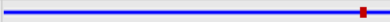
Ipswich High School continues to offer Ipswich students an excellent public education as evidenced by recognitions in a number of areas. Colleges continue to accept Ipswich High School graduates at a high rate. The Class of 2015 ended with 96% accepted to colleges, 75% of those to 4 year colleges, and 21% to two year schools. Acceptances included Boston University, University of Connecticut, Brown, Fordham, Colgate University, Gordon College, M.I.T., Harvard University, Providence College, Princeton University and many others. Over 180 different colleges accepted Ipswich High School graduates.



MCAS scores continue to be outstanding with 98% of the current juniors scoring Advanced or Proficient in English Language Arts. In Mathematics, 90% attained that level as did 83% in Biology. Students continue to have scores that rank Ipswich High School in the top tier of Level I Massachusetts Public Schools.

2015 Official Accountability Data - Ipswich High

Organization Information			
District:	Ipswich (01440000)	School type:	High School
School:	Ipswich High (01440505)	Grades served:	09,10,11,12
Region:	Northeast	Title I status:	Non-Title I School (NT)

Accountability Information		About the Data
Accountability and Assistance Level		
Level 1	Meeting gap narrowing goals	
This school's overall performance relative to other schools in same school type (School percentiles: 1-99)		
All students:		
This school's progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps (Cumulative Progress and Performance Index: 1-100)		
Student Group (Click group to view subgroup data)	On Target = 75 or higher - 	View Detailed 2015 Data
	Less progress More progress	
All students		79 Met Target
High needs		-

Several of our athletic teams advanced into the MIAA State Tourney and many athletes earned individual All-Star and All League Honors. The Ipswich High School Cheerleaders secured another Cape Ann League title and a trip to the National Cheerleading competition. Our football team qualified for the playoffs under first year head coach Kevin Fessette, who also garnered Cape Ann League Coach of the Year honors. Several Fall athletes garnered player of the year awards including Jake Long (football) and Emily Demarco (Cross Country). Golf Coaches Steve Lamson and Doug Woodworth also garnered coach of the year honors for the Tigers. Winter Track for both boys and girls earned CAL championships. The Girls Indoor track team finished with an undefeated season and a win streak that stands at 39 consecutive meets. Track coach Marty Binette received the Boston Globe Coach of the Year honor for this incredible feat.

Special thanks to the Ipswich Education Foundation for their continued work and support of the Ipswich Public Schools. The IEF and Institution for Savings have been instrumental in helping the schools

IHS art students again received Gold, Silver and Honorable Mention Awards from the *Boston Globe*. Most notable in the Spring of 2015 were the multiple Gold and Silver Key recognitions for Zoe Gillette for her drawings and digital art work.

As has been our custom, the Gold medal Jazz Band, Concert Band, Orchestra and Concert Choir all performed multiple times at a level rarely seen in high school. Their concerts are a superb chance for members of the community to see tremendous talent and performances in our own Performing Arts Center.

Feoffees grants have provided enrichment and enhancement opportunities for our school community. One of our biggest successes came in the form of a Student Leadership in Sustainability grants. 12 students competed and were selected to attend a Student Leadership

Summit in Costa Rica. Students returned to Ipswich High School as world travelers armed with useful information and a passion to solve the world's sustainability concerns. Many of these students have already impacted the local community with their global thinking and local action related to sustainability issues.

Ipswich High School continues to offer valuable learning through rigorous course offerings and high interest elective programs and extracurricular opportunities. The entire Ipswich community should be proud of the educational program at the high school. The support afforded by the community for the schools is paying dividends for our students and positions them well for their college and career plans.

IPSWICH MIDDLE SCHOOL

David P. Fabrizio, Principal

The 2015-2016 school year ushered in a great leap forward for the Ipswich Middle School. New and innovative practices infused with state of the art technologies have put our school on the cutting edge of middle school education. Powerful learning experiences based upon transferable skills have transformed our school. Our professional staff continues to collaborate and grow. Our comprehensive professional development program, data-driven student remediation and improved instructional techniques all contributed to increased student learning. Once again Ipswich Middle School performed at the highest levels in state and national standardized tests.

Our educational focus this year centered on developing curricular units on critical thinking skills. This exercise is part of a big picture shift in our curriculum that blends the content and frameworks outlined in the Massachusetts Common Core with the Ipswich Successful Habits of Mind. The Successful Habits of Mind are skills that all successful persons will need to thrive in a constantly changing world.

Our middle schoolers continue to enjoy a variety of after-school activities, including Art Club, Math League, Recycling Club, Homework Club and Tiger Den. Our Student Leadership Senate (SLS) has led the way in community service with our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, Penny Wars and the Walk for Hunger. The Walk and the Food Drive benefit the Ipswich Food Pantry. Eighth grade student Brian Trefry, our 2016 Project 351 Ambassador, organized the highly successful Cradles to Crayons clothing drive to benefit needy families.

Our athletic programs continued to thrive. Once again a significant number of students participated in our intramural offerings of basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton, dodge ball, golf and ultimate Frisbee. On the interscholastic side our student athletes competed with neighboring schools in cross country, field hockey, basketball, ice hockey and track.

In keeping with tradition, each grade attends an academically based trip during the school year. The sixth grade kicks it off for us with a week in April at The Ecology School at Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine. Students spend their time exploring and learning on a beautiful coastal campus. Seventh grade students learn first-hand about the local ecosystems and history with a series of separate day trips at locations along the Ipswich River and local points of interest. The trip this

year will be emphasizing more time on the river. Our eighth grade will be moving away from the traditional geology-based trip to a celebration of culture, with trips to Salem and Boston.

Clearly, the Ipswich Middle School is a dynamic, thriving institution. Our vibrant faculty and outstanding students have created an all-inclusive culture that affords everyone the chance to get involved. We are dedicated to the belief that an active and engaged student is a successful student.

DOYON SCHOOL

Sheila Conley, Principal

The school year started with a 50th Celebration for the Paul F. Doyon Memorial School. Each grade level researched one of the five decades and shared their knowledge with classmates at a school-wide assembly. Student representatives shared what they decided to put in a Time Capsule that will be buried and opened twenty- five years from now. Bulletin boards throughout the building were created with this theme in mind. It was like walking down memory lane – a true timeline of inventions, award winning books, movies, games and current events from 1965-2015! Students participated in an afternoon of games and activities played through the decades followed by a “Family Ice Cream Social” evening sponsored by FRIES.

On Saturday, the celebration continued for retirees, alumni, former Superintendent Thompson, former principal Dr. Ken Cooper, and other special town and state representatives who gathered with current colleagues and friends to share their memorable times while being at Doyon over the past fifty years! The five Caldecott book quilts, created by Mrs. Ruth Cooper in which she had all PreK- Grade 5 students involved in making, were presented and now hang in the Doyon Library. As a culminating activity, a keepsake t-shirt will be created and worn by all Doyon students at our end of the year events such as the Doyon-A-Thon and Crane Beach Day.

Thanks to the success of the override, Doyon has had a wonderful year. We have been able to support our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) initiatives. We have appropriate class sizes in all grade levels, a new Library-Media Specialist, Orchestra was restored as an option for our fourth graders, the Art teacher position was increased from 0.8 to full time, a Math Specialist position was added, and appropriate funding for supplies and materials was restored. Thanks to the hiring of the new Library-Media Specialist, Teresa Hohenstein, the Doyon library once again is open along with students in grades 1-5 experiencing coding for the first time! Currently, 26 fourth and fifth graders participate in Orchestra and 58 participate in Band. Amazingly, Mrs. Blum, Art teacher, once again will have all K-5 students participate, with two pieces each, in the Art Show on April 14th. This year, Mrs. Blum has worked to add a STEAM component to her schedule with some Kindergarten, 4th and 5th grade classes. What is happening in the Humanities speaks volumes as to how important the love of music and art is to the elementary children and culture of Ipswich. Our new Math specialist position held by Ms. Maureen O’Connell, a veteran Doyon teacher, has allowed Doyon students the additional support that has been needed along with support for the staff in the area of mathematics. Doyon has established a number Professional Learning Communities this school year. Ms. O’Connell is leading a Math Matters PLC with colleagues, Ms. Susan Speak and Ms. Lisa Manzi are leading Engineering PLC, Mrs. Amy Gregory and Mrs. Teresa Hohenstein

established a Maker Space PLC as a way to be on the cutting edge on the Maker Space initiative. The members Technology PLC support their colleagues in implementing the various new technologies such as iPads, Chromebooks, and interactive boards along with new apps and software such as Aspen. We continue work with our Winthrop colleagues on curriculum writing PLC's. The curriculum writing units this year focus on Critical Thinking which is one of the district-wide Successful Habit of Mind dispositions.

Once again, the Doyon and Winthrop Kindergarten teachers engaged in the comprehensive process to meet the national standards for high quality education in kindergarten. They were awarded the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This national award of excellence is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of our early childhood staff.

The social well-being of our students is always a priority. With that in mind, our social worker, Ms. Piaseczynski and Physical Education teacher, Mrs. Cardew developed a bi-weekly program called "Community Building" that students and teachers in grades 1-4 currently participating in. A common language and strategies for how to problem solve social situations are taught. This year the Ipswich Police Department held elementary DARE classes with our first and third grade students.

The DEEP (Doyon Extraordinary Enrichment Program) is a highlight of Doyon's extra-curricular opportunities offered after school to all students free of charge thanks to a grant from the Ipswich ReCreation Department. Over 250 students participated in the various classes during our fall and spring five week sessions. Classes are taught by staff, parents, and community members sharing their talents with our students. Some of the classes include Outdoor Adventure, ICAM, cake decorating, crocheting, karate, yoga, cartoon drawing, Lego building, Coloring with Conversations. Special thanks to Ipswich Police Department for teaching a class called "FEMA Ready Kids" this year.

Student Leader Team (SLT) and Early Act are other highlights for our 4th and 5th grade students. SLT members interact with younger students, peers and/or adults in the building to share their leadership skills. Early Act students, in collaboration with the Ipswich Rotary, meet monthly and coordinate events to raise funds and awareness of the importance of helping others both locally and throughout the world. Over 200 families and Rotary volunteers will attend the Early Act's Annual Movie Night on April 8th at Doyon. All donations from this wonderful event are given to a chosen charity which is decided by the group.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of FRIES, School Council, DEEP, Rotary, Ipswich Police Department and community members for your dedication to the students of Doyon. I am honored to be part of such incredible group of professionals who always share their love of learning with their students and provide a safe and enthusiastic learning environment each and every day.

WINTROP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Sheila McAdams, Principal

“What day is it?”
“It’s today,” squeaked Piglet.
“My favorite day,” said Pooh.
-A.A. Milne



Optimism. Little did we know when we selected our 2014-15 school year theme how apropos it would be. The contrast was stark between our non-override budget, filled with reduced student opportunities and program elimination, and our override budget, refreshing the old and offering engaging experiences for students. Like the excessive snowbanks, our worries lingered into late spring. We held hope with two hands knowing it would take deliberate fiscal sacrifices in homes across the community to benefit our youth. Gratitude continues to flavor each day as we put our dreams for our students into action following the successful override vote.

The influx of funds could not have come at a more critical time. Trends in education continue to shift, driven by a decade of unrealized federal goals. A heightened value on non-cognitive skills, such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity, exists as a result of fluid industry demands, technological advances and changing workplace expectations. Cross-cutting discipline studies show great promise in engaging students and ensuring transfer of knowledge and skills into application. Isolated instruction of English Language Arts, mathematics and science has given way to problem and project-based thematic approaches. The call for science, technology, engineering, arts and humanities, and mathematics (STEAM) integration and more personalized learning are the educational standards of the day.

How fortunate for us that our consideration of a new physical plant began at the same time as these fundamental shifts in education. Following the town vote to enter in a rebuild/new build Feasibility Process, the School Building Committee has been working through the Feasibility tasks, set forth by the Massachusetts School Building Authority. PMA was chosen as our

Operations Project Manager and, this fall, architectural firms were under review for selection. Many discussions and decisions lie ahead.

The timing of the override, combined with educational program changes, gives way to a theme of **Mindfulness**. An appreciation for local resources, both fiscal and natural, is highlighted in our changing, expanding and improving programming. Internally, we have so many talented and committed staff. Building capacity within their skills sets in an effort to strengthen us all has been the impetus of several Feoffee mini-grants. Training teachers as coaches and teacher leaders brings a collective perspective. The addition of new staff sparks learning as well. This fall, we welcomed a Library Media Specialist into our library after eight years without one. Information access for both students and teachers has been a clear and immediate benefit. Databases of information, free academic outreach programs from local experts and technology integration in new and exciting ways strengthen our thematic inquiries. Similarly, our ability to create co-taught classrooms in which one general education and one special education teacher collaboratively instruct a classroom has breathed new life into teaching methodologies, couched within student interests, creating a personalized learning format. Lastly, the addition of a district-wide Food Service Director not only has allowed for savings and additional funding streams into our lunch program, but it has also expanded connections between food services, the classroom, local farms and fresh produce. This fall, our school participated in our first of many Big Apple Crunch days where every student enjoyed the sweet rewards of a Russell Orchards' apple!

With funds for buses, mobile technology and field lab equipment, learning has become more mobile and our ability to use local resources as teaching venues is enhanced. Grants, written by teachers, such as Feoffee mini-grants and Cultural Council grants, provided preview materials for students before their visits to local learning environments such as Appleton Farms, vernal pools, Bradley Palmer, the Ipswich Wildlife Sanctuary, Crane and Pavillion Beach where STEAM concepts are explored in depth. Farther afield, students investigate the Boston Freedom Trail, Boston Public Gardens, the Harvard Peabody Museum and the DeCordova Museum. The richness, learning and curiosity these learning experiences offer are the impetus for life-long interests.

Extended learning experiences are an integral component of our learning programming for students. Collaboration with the Ipswich ReCreation Department and local community volunteers continues to fuel our After School Community Enrichment (ACE) program. Over two hundred students in both the fall and spring participated in the varied afterschool offerings free of charge. Incredible parent effort resulted in new opportunities in our first annual Science Fair and our third, fourth and fifth grade Math Team. Building stamina and goal setting is an underlying tenet of our Pace Club and, added this year due to a Feoffee mini-grant, Girls on the Run. Treasures come in many forms. Often, for us at Winthrop School, treasures are bundled in smart little shoes, warm welcoming smiles and positive attitudes. We are mindful of the treasures we are entrusted ...every day, we are grateful for our gifts

SHADE TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Janet Taisey Craft, Chair



The Shade Tree and Beautification Committee is made up of concerned Ipswich residents, landscape professionals, Garden Club members and two selectmen who recommend, recognize, and implement actions that beautify and enhance the town of Ipswich and its quality of life. The Committee seeks and monitors local business support for the planting and maintaining of roadway islands, promotes appropriate planting areas and tree planting throughout the town as well as organizes town-wide cleanups. The Committee works closely with the Town Manager, Department of Public Works, Planning Department, Forestry Department, Board of Selectmen, and Garden Clubs to achieve special initiatives. 2015 was a busy year for the Committee. Highlights include:

The Adapt an Island Program enters its ninth year. This program has greatly enhanced the beauty of the town and has become a model for other nearby communities. Through an application process, coordinated through the town's DPW department, local businesses and community organizations sponsor and maintain a traffic island three seasons of the year. The Committee also sponsors hanging flower baskets in the downtown business area, the railroad station, and maintains 24 large planters along the Riverwalk.

The Old Elm Tree Ring Project was initiated when the town's beloved 171-year-old elm tree on the corner of East Street and County Street died and had to be cut down in July 2012. The Elm Ring was saved, dried, sanded and prepared for display. It was dated by Dr. David Orwig, a research forest ecologist. The Elm Ring Project was completed in the fall of 2015 and is now on permanent public display in a showcase on the first floor of the Town Hall.

Shade Tree Preservation is an important aspect of the committee's focus. Working through the Public Works Department, "A Tree Health Survey" will be completed this spring. The survey will assess the health of the town's shade trees and begin to collect an inventory of the town's shade trees. The Committee initiated a fundraising effort to raise money for future trees and tree maintenance in Ipswich.

The Committee organized a fall and spring Town Wide Cleanup. Volunteers cleared trash in the major entrance roadways into town, the downtown business area, the Hammett Street parking lot, the railroad station, Bialek Park, and the Town Wharf. The Committee reviews the town's Streetscape projects and their impact on trees. Working closely with the town arborist and other town committees, the Committee is a strong advocate for the preservation and protection of the town's shade trees.

TRUST FUND COMMISSION

Richard J. Fates, Chairman

With low interest rates and a volatile equity market, the Town's trust funds improved marginally in 2015 after custodial fees but before distributions. In dollar terms, the funds performed as follows:

Market Value 12/31/2014	\$468,562.34
Interest	4,612.12
Dividends	4,902.59
Capital Appreciation	-2,688.84
Less:	
Custodial and Accounting Fees	-2,276.21
Distributions	<u>-29,903.00</u>
Market Value 12/31/2015	\$443,209.00

The bulk of the distributions (\$14,425) represented scholarships from various Funds for graduating seniors from Ipswich High School and the Ipswich Historical Commission (\$15,000 from the Bowen Fund) to support the restoration of the Old Burying Ground. One other distributions went to the Ipswich High School (\$478 from the Newman Fund) for a machine for the shop class. The trust funds are currently allocated 44% in fixed income and 56% in equities. This allocation supports the production of current income, reduced price volatility and longer-term growth of capital. Equity exposure is diversified with 75% in the broad U.S. equity market, 18% in Europe, Australasia and the Far East and 6% in a hedging fund. The fixed income portion of the portfolio is concentrated in medium-term, high quality corporate bonds. As these bonds mature over the next few years we expect to reinvest their proceeds at higher rates than are currently available as the Federal Reserve reverses its current policy of essentially "zero" interest rates. The portfolio also has a significant investment in a Treasury Inflation Protection Security (TIPS) that produces both current income and also provides protection against inflation which will inevitably return. A CD and cash for our foreseeable distributions round out the investments.

Although the Federal Reserve has begun to raise interest rates, they remain low and increases are uncertain as to timing and amount. This caused greater volatility in the equity markets in 2015 with little improvement in Fixed Income returns. The equity markets were basically flat for the year. Bond returns will continue to be meager, if not negative, as rate increases cause bond prices to decline more than the interest they produce. In 2016 we will rely on our allocation to produce enough income to fund scholarship distributions and expect equity funds to grow our portfolio at the rate of inflation or better.

Financial Statements Appendix

2015